Shojo Beat Manga

BABY & Me™

Story & Art by

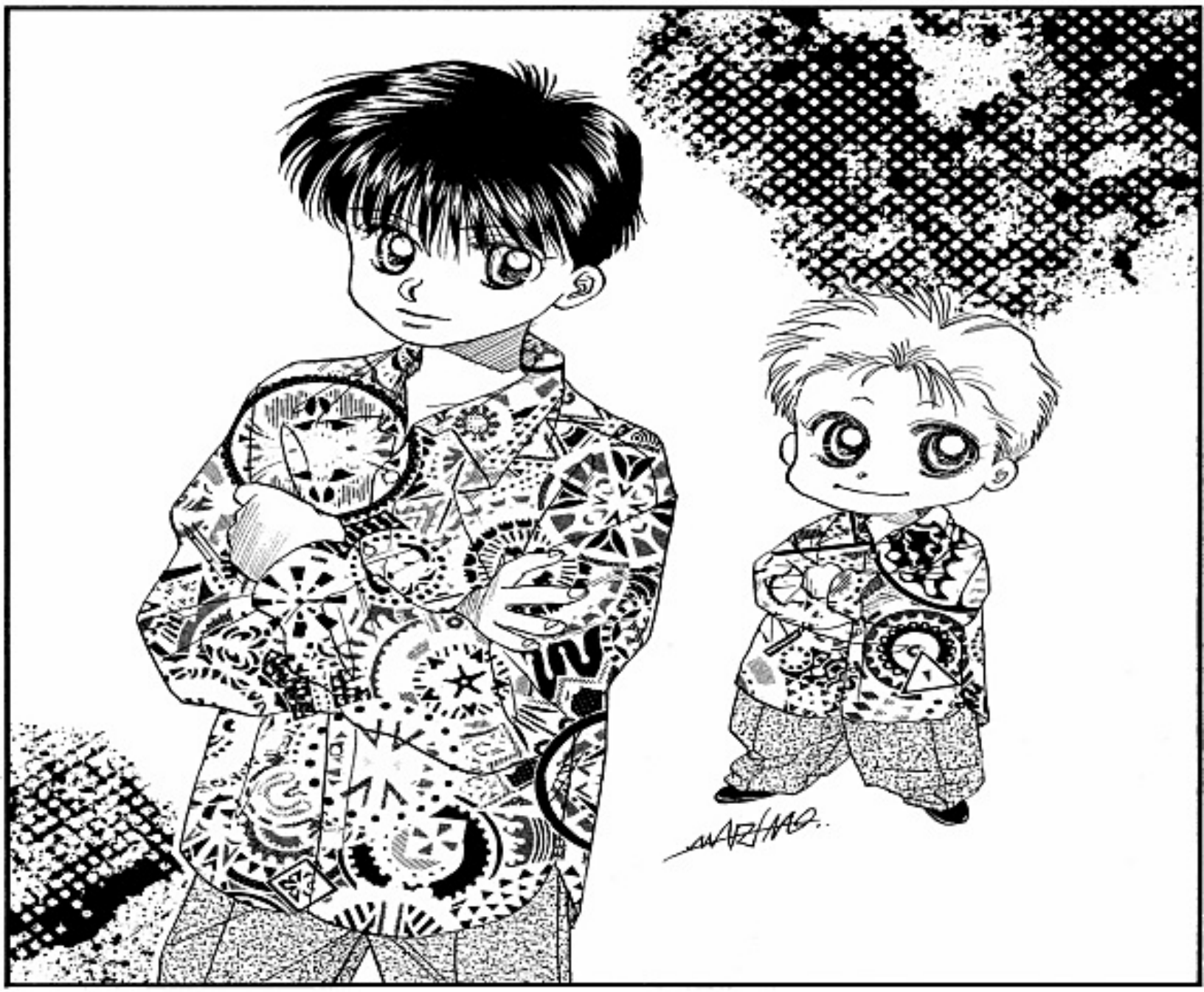
Marimo Ragawa

6

Shojo Beat

BABY & Me

Vol. 6



Story & Art by Marimo Ragawa

BABY & Me

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THERE'S A SCARY STORY IN THIS VOLUME. PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE AUTHOR'S NOTE, PART 5 BEFORE YOU READ ON.

BY MARIMO

BABY & Me

Chapter 28

THE ENOKI FAMILY?

"TAKUYA'S MY BEST FRIEND, YOU KNOW? HE'S A GREAT GUY. HE TAKES GOOD CARE OF HIS LITTLE BROTHER AND HE DOES THE HOUSEWORK, TOO."

"YEAH."

TAKUYA'S CLASS-MATE GON...

...AND MINORU'S CLASSMATE HIRO SAY...

"THOSE POOR GUYS. HAVING NO WIFE AND MOTHER IN THE HOME MUST BE DIFFICULT."

"IT'S SUCH A TRAGEDY THAT THEY LOST THEIR MOTHER."

MR. AND MRS. KIMURA, WHO LIVE ACROSS THE STREET, SAY...

WHAT DO PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT

"I LOVE MINORU."

"MINOWU IS NICE."

...AND BROTHER MA-BO...

IN THE WORDS OF AKIHIRO'S SISTER ICHIKA...

"MINORU? WELL, HE'S SORT OF A BIG BROTHER'S BOY, BUT COMPARED TO MY LITTLE BROTHER AND SISTER, HE SEEMS PRETTY EASY TO MANAGE."

IN THE WORDS OF TAKUYA'S IDOL (?) AKIHIRO FUJII...

"ENOKI!! I'M NOT GONNA LOSE TO YOU!"

"TAKUYA, I WAS BORN INTO A CLASS YOU CAN NEVER ASPIRE TO."

IN THE WORDS OF KUMADE AND TAMADATE, WHO SEE TAKUYA AS THEIR RIVAL...

"HARUMI IS THE MAN I'D LIKE TO BE."

"I HOPE THEY'LL WATCH TAICHI FOR US AGAIN."

"GA GA."

SEIICHI, TOMOKO, AND TAICHI KIMURA SAY...

MINORU ENOKI (2)

TAKUYA ENOKI (12)

HARUMI ENOKI (34)

THE ENOKI MEN ARE ALL SCRAPPERS WHO YOU JUST CAN'T HELP ROOTING FOR.

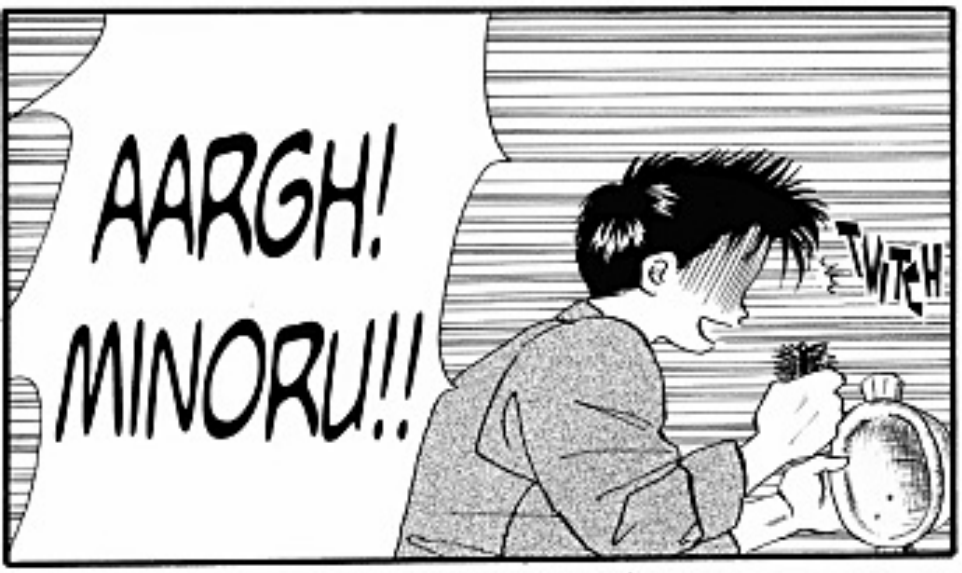
...AND YET...
SPRING IS HERE. IT'S NOT AS COLD...
...AND THE SKY THAT SEEMED SO GLOOMY IN WINTER LOOKS A LITTLE BRIGHTER...
IT'S SO COLD...
UH?
SHIVERS
SNIFF
IT IS?
MINORU'S SO CARE-FREE AND INNO-CENT...
KOFF
BWAZA'S HAND IS WAWM.
HUH?!

100.8!!
YOU'RE SICK, ALL RIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE I'VE CAUGHT A COLD.
...MINOWU SAY-- NO!
HUH?
AN' DEN, BWAZA...
DAZED
UNH...
I'LL MAKE SOME RICE SOUP. YOU CAN EAT A LITTLE OF THAT.
WELL YOU HAVE TO EAT SOME-THING.
WIP WIP
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN EAT DINNER?
IT'S EASY TO CATCH A COLD WHEN THE SEASONS CHANGE...
DOO...
I'M NOT HUNGRY...
KOFF
KOFF
HUH?
OH, DAD?
MINO-RU...
KOFF

BOO!
WHUP
YOU'RE RIGHT. GO ON, MINORU. GO WATCH TV.
UH!
HE'LL CATCH WHATEVER I'VE GOT.
DON'T LET MINORU GET CLOSE TO ME...
HUH?
KAH
MINORU!
TUG
HEY, HE'S PUTTING UP A FIGHT.
UNH!
HEY!!
WAAH!! IT'S COLD!!

FWIP
NO!!
LET GO, MINO-RU!
WHUP
...
...
OOPS.
SPLASH

MY HANDS...
...ARE SWEATING...
I'M SO HOT...
WHEEZE
KOFF
I SAWEE, BWAZA!!
I'M SORRY, TAKUYA!!
BWAZA...
POP
...GO SEEP TOO.
MINOWU...
WHUP


AARGH!
MINORU!!
TWITCH

SKUSH
SKUSH

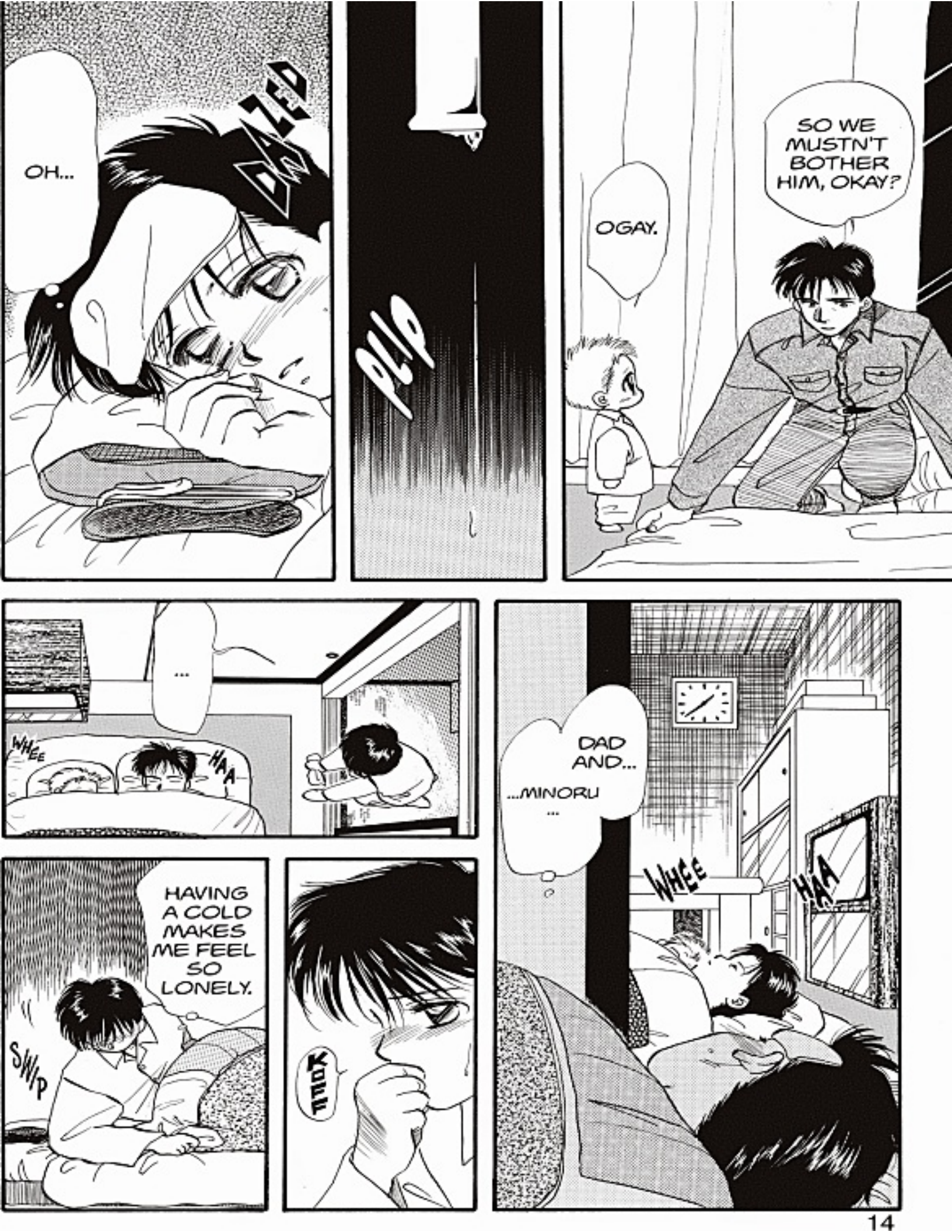
PLUP PLUP
YOU DUMMY, MINORU ...
WHY WON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?

WHAT'S WRONG, TAKUYA?! MINORU?!
WHA...?
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

TAKUYA?
TA AA AA

PLUP PLUP
I TOLD HIM NO, BUT HE WON'T LISTEN TO ME!
SOB SOB
M-MINORU'S TRYING TO SLEEP WITH ME!
SOB SOB
I WANNA SEEP WIF BWAZA!!
HA
WA

...DE-
GREES
...
103.6
THERMOMETER
TAKUYA, LET'S TAKE YOUR TEMPER-ATURE AGAIN.
OKAY?
WHY?!
SNIFF SNIFF
YOU'RE VERY SICK.
OOH... MY BODY FEELS SO HEAVY...
YOUR BRO-THER..
...IS DELIR-IOUS WITH A FEVER.
MINORU, LET'S LAY OUR BEDDING OUT IN THE LIVING ROOM TONIGHT...
UNH...
OH...
HIS FEVER'S PRETTY HIGH...
OOH... H-HOT...
SOB SOB
...HE'S PROBABLY OUT OF HIS HEAD.
HUH?!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. HIS HEAD HURTS.
BWAZA...
...HE SICK?


OH...
DAZE
PIP
SO WE MUSTN'T BOTHER HIM, OKAY?
OGAY.
...
WHEE
HAA
DAD AND...
...MINORU
...
WHEE
HAA
HAVING A COLD MAKES ME FEEL SO LONELY.
SNIP
KOFF

THEY SEEM ...
...SO FAR AWAY...
WHEEZE
MR. ENOKI ...
RECEPTION
MR. ENOKI ...
MAKE SURE HE GETS PLENTY OF REST.
AND DON'T LET HIM TAKE A BATH FOR A FEW DAYS.
I'M ENOKI.
OH.
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
SNIFF

DRIVER, PLEASE TAKE HIM HOME.
YES, SIR.
I ASKED THE GOTOH BOY TO BRING MINORU HOME.
WELL, I'LL BE GOING TO THE OFFICE. WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
UH-HUH.
OKAY. HERE'S YOUR MEDI-CINE.
SO IT'S A COLD, HUH?
UH-HUH.
VROOM
I'M HOME.
KAK
TOMORROW'S SATURDAY.
STORE
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK...
DARN...
KOFF

I'M SO WEAK.
OW...
CLICK
...
WUMP
AND TIRED...
FWUMP

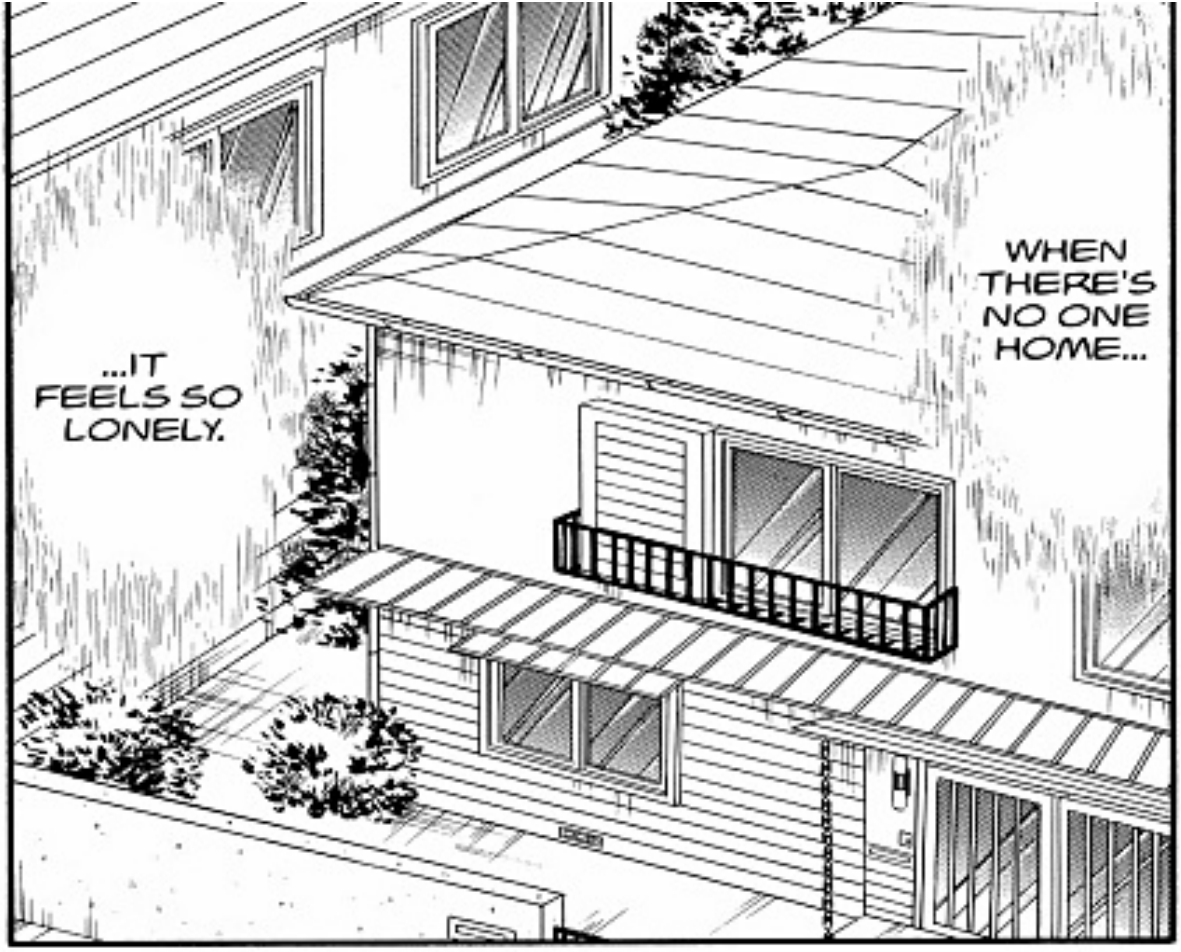
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
MY JOINTS ACHE.
SAAA
SAAA
I'LL PUT ON MY PAJAMAS AND REST.
WHEEZE
HA HA HA MOMMY...
...QUIET...
IT'S SO...

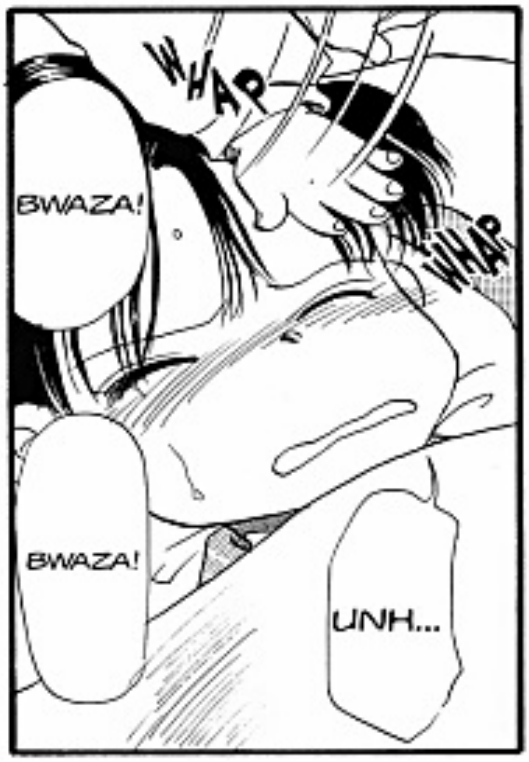
Author's Note, Part 1

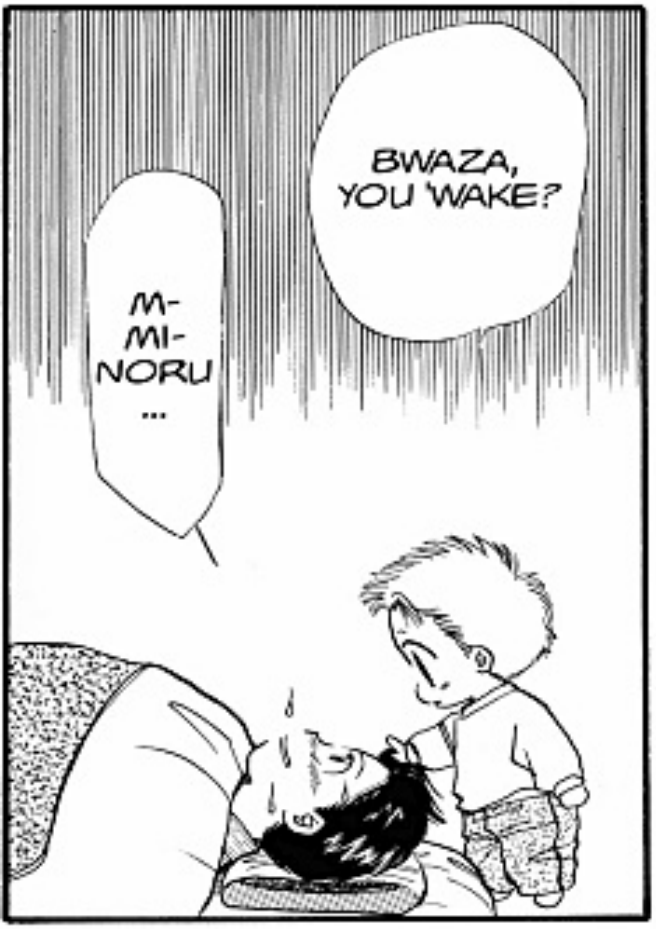
Hello, this is Ragawa. This is volume 6 of *Baby and Me*, so let's get started!! The subject this time is my excuses. Your letters always encourage me. Sometimes, you're confused by something and want me to clarify it. I'm happy to do so, but sometimes my explanations may sound like excuses. This continues in Part 2.

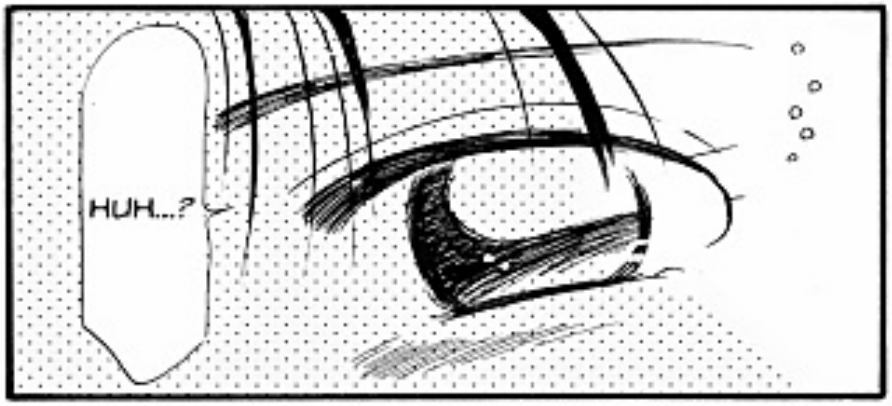
The Kenji Kurita character that appears in Chapter 31 is one of my favorites, and was popular with my assistants. But for some reason, the readers didn't like him...

6 b



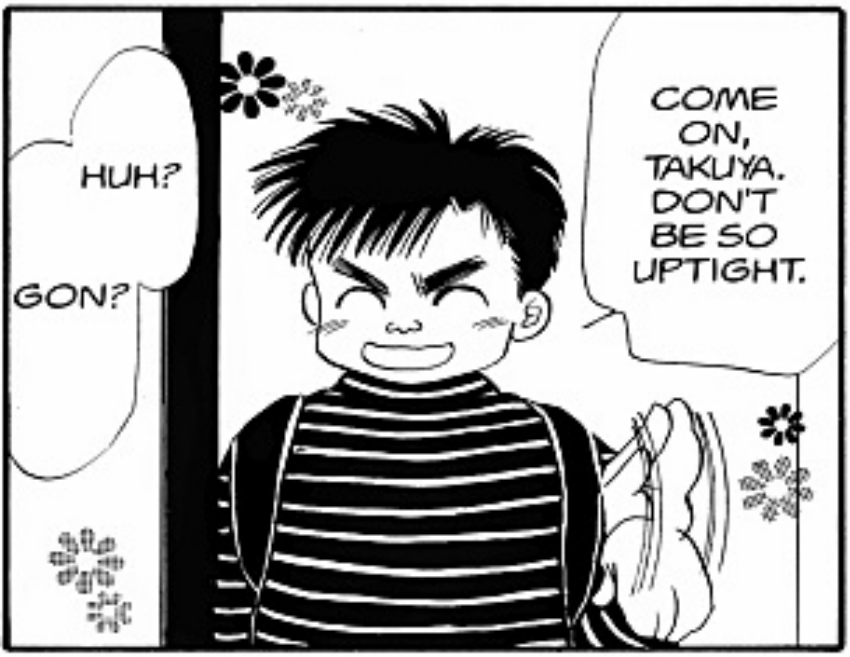


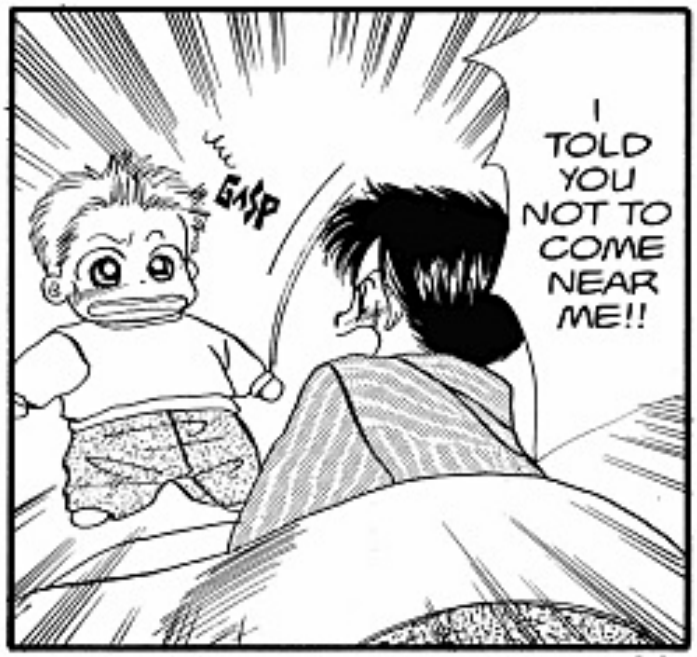

BWAZA, YOU WAKE?
M-MI-NORU ...


HUH...?

?!

OH!

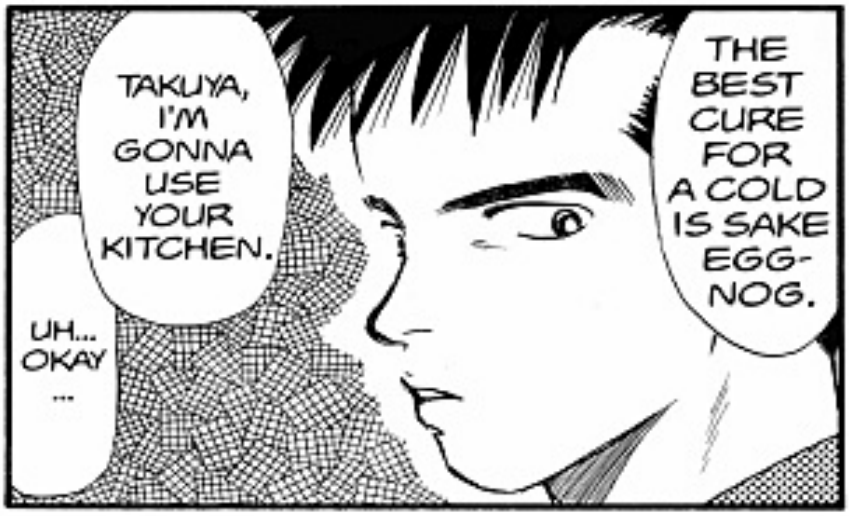

HUH?
GON?
COME ON, TAKUYA. DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT.


GASP
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME NEAR ME!!

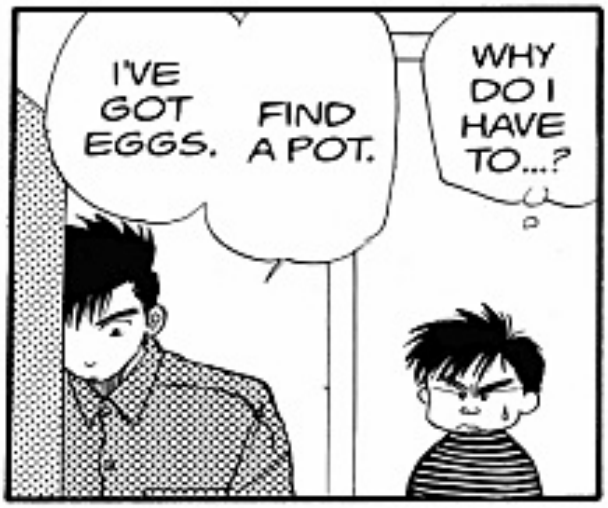
THAT'S OKAY.
I HAD TO GO GET HIRO ANYWAY.
YEAH.
OH.
THANKS A LOT, GON.
WHEEZE
YOUR DAD LEFT THE KEY AT THE NURSERY SCHOOL.
HE ASKED ME TO BRING MINORU HOME.
WASN'T THE DOOR LOCKED?
HEY, TAKUYA! I'M COMING IN!
SHKK
YOU DON'T SOUND SO GOOD. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MY FEVER'S A LITTLE LOWER THAN IT WAS LAST NIGHT, BUT...
OH, THESE ARE SOME HANDOUTS WE GOT TODAY.
THANKS.
HFF
YOUR DAD ASKED ME TO LOOK IN ON YOU.
HI.
IT SOUNDS LIKE SEIICHI.
WHO'S THAT?

SAKE?
DON'T YOU KNOW ANY-THING?!
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING?! YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST BROUGHT OVER SOME SAKE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! HEY, YOU'RE THE KID FROM THE GOTOH LIQUOR STORE?
YIKES! SEIICHI!!
SEIICHI ...
HIRO
MINORU


TAKUYA, I'M GONNA USE YOUR KITCHEN.
UH... OKAY ...
THE BEST CURE FOR A COLD IS SAKE EGG-NOG.

DON'T DRINK WHILE YOU'RE COOKING.
THERE'S SOME SAKE LEFT. CAN'T LET IT GO TO WASTE.
GLUG GLUG


I'VE GOT EGGS.
FIND A POT.
WHY DO I HAVE TO...?

HEY...
...GIMME A HAND, LIQUOR STORE KID.
IS IT SAFE?

OKAY.
HAVE A TASTE.

KWANK
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN DO IT?
WHADDAYA MEAN?! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I MAKE A VERY HAND-SOME CHEF.
KWANK
WHAT A RACK-ET!

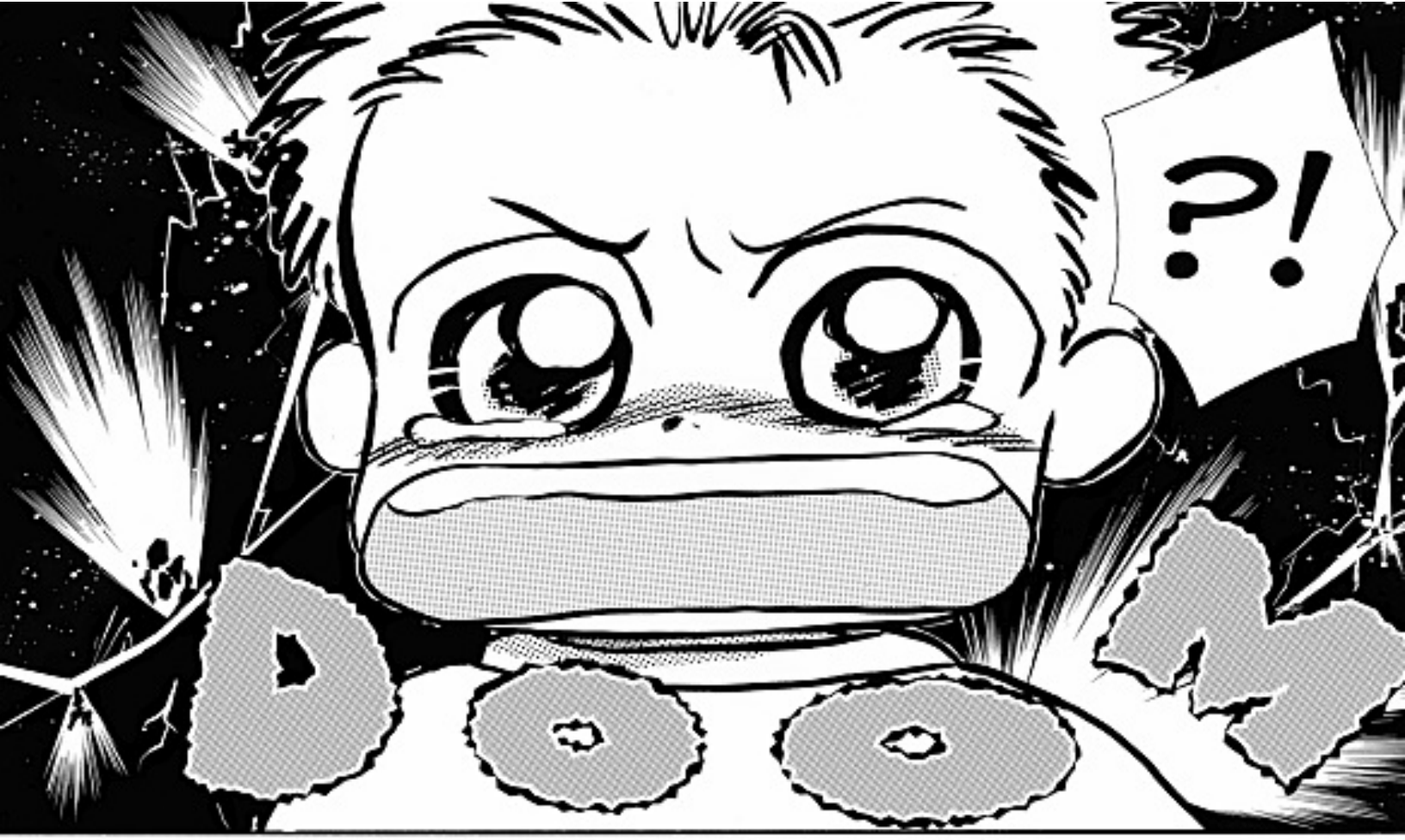
THAT'S TOO MUCH SAKE!!
BUTT OUT, KID.
GLUP GLUP
THAT'S TOO MUCH, BONE-HEAD!!
HEY!
I'LL ADD SOME SUGAR.
NOT SWEET ENOUGH.
SHLUP SHLUP
HMM ...
ARE YOU OFF TODAY?
WHAT ABOUT WORK?
HUH? EMPTY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. WE WORK IN SHIFTS IN THE KITCHEN.
I HAD THE EARLY SHIFT TODAY.
YOU CAN DRINK WHAT'S LEFT, OKAY? IT'S NOT POISON.
TA-KUYA ...
I'LL ADD ANOTHER EGG.
HMM... NOW THE PROPOR-TIONS ARE OFF.
...CAN'T DRINK ALL THIS.
GLUG GLUG
BLUP BLUP
IF WE ADD ANOTHER EGG, IT'LL OVERFLOW. DRINK SOME OF IT.
OKAY, LET'S OPEN ANOTHER ONE.
HOW MANY BOTTLES DID YOU BUY?!
OH...

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
TUP
HUH?
GUH!..
TUP
BWAZA...
BWAZA...
...SURE ARE TAKING A LONG TIME.
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE DOING.
GON AND SEIICHI...
HUH...?
UGH
!!
MINO-RU!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME NEAR ME!
GUESS WHAT? GUESS WHAT?

BWAZA?
...
BWAZA?
SHOOM
I'M GONNA THROW UP!!
UGH

OH ...
KLAK
KLAK
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
TUP TUP
BWAZA ...
BLUGH!
KOFF
KOFF

BWA...
BWAZA...
KOFF
KOFF
OH...
MINORU?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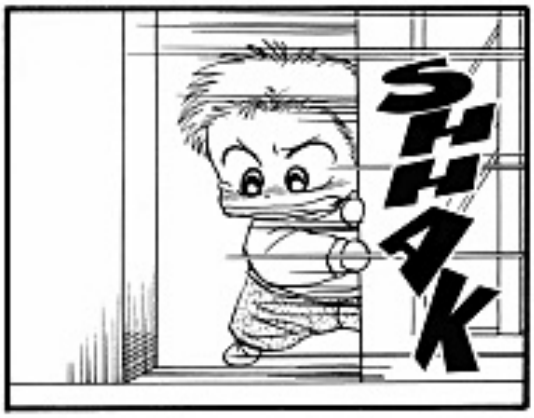

SHAK

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

SHOOM

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

?!
WIP
WIP
HUFF
HUFF
HUH...?
BWAZA !!
BWA ...
BWAZA...
SOB
SOB
SOB
I'M HOME.
MINO-RU...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING SHOES?

BWAZA GONNA DIE!!

AAH
WHAT?!

HI, DAD.
YOU'RE HOME EARLY.
SWUP
SWUP
OH...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
AM
TAKUYA !!
WH
AAA
Y-YOU THREW UP?!
YEAH. I FELT SO SICK I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE.
WHAT? YEAH...
I THREW UP, BUT...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
TA-TA-TAKUYA!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
UNH?
YOU DID? I CALLED SEIICHI FROM THE OFFICE...
...AND ASKED HIM TO CHECK ON YOU. DID HE COME OVER?
SEIICHI?
UBB...

TAK TAKA TAK
WHAT'S GOING ON?
TAKA KLUNK
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO MAKE EGGNOG. GON WAS HELPING HIM.
WHAT'S HE DOING?
THE KITCH-EN?
TAK TAKA KLANG
HE WENT INTO THE KITCHEN AND HE NEVER CAME OUT AGAIN.
STINKING DRUNK
WHAK WHAK WHAK
I'M A DRU-DRUM-MER...
HEY!!
WA HA HA
SORRY...

WILL YOU IDIOTS...
...QUIET DOWN?!
THE CRAWL!
GRR...
WA HA HA HA
TAK TAKA
KLANK KLANK
I'M GONNA DRUM UP A STORM!
I'M DOING THE BUTTER-FLY!
WA HA HA HA
TAKA
KLINK
BANG
KRASH
HMPH!
YOU CAN'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT.
SEIICHI WAS DOING HIS BEST...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED SEIICHI.
PLUP

PLOP
TUP TUP TUP
UH-HUH...
MINORU WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
HE JUST WANTS TO BE NEAR YOU.
MINORU... DON'T COME IN ANY CLOSER, OKAY?
OGAY.
IT MAKES ME FEEL...
UNH...
UNH...

...BETTER.
CHEEP CHEEP
GOOD MORN-ING.
SKRUSH
SKRUSH
SKWIK
MINORU!!
UMMA...

YAY!!
GOO' MOWNIN'!
I'VE LEARNED...
...TO HAVE MY DAD AND BROTHER AROUND.
CHEEP
CHEEP
...HOW MUCH IT MEANS TO ME...
...DAD CAUGHT A COLD.
...
UH...
SOB
I'M WEAK. I DON'T HAVE AS MUCH RESISTANCE AS MY KIDS...
SOB
I'M GETTING OLD...
KOFF KOFF
NOT LONG AFTER THAT...

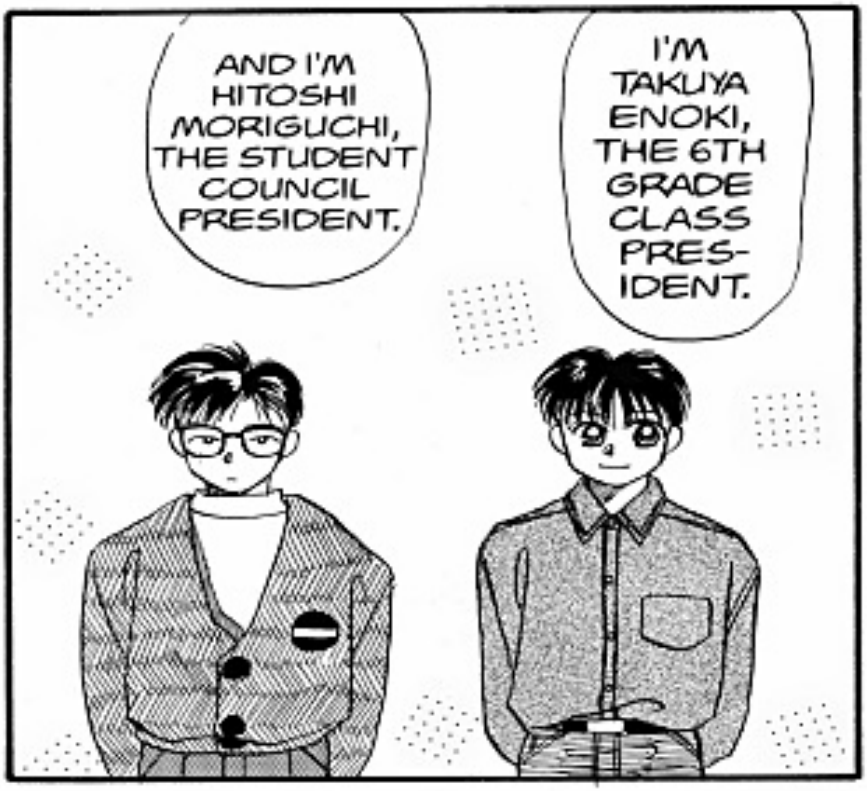
ONE STEP
TWO STEP
THREE STEP
CHAPTER 29
DONE.
A LITTLE MORE...
A LONG WAY TO GO...
BABY & Me
FRUIT

ONE DAY, A NEW KID CAME TO OUR SCHOOL.
THIS IS OUR NEW TRANS-FER STU-DENT.
HIS NAME IS SUGURU HIKAGE.
SUGURU HIKAGE
WUZZ
AS OF TODAY, HE'S A MEMBER OF CLASS 6-2.
SUGURU HIKAGE
WUZZ
WUZZ
I HOPE YOU'LL ALL MAKE FRIENDS WITH HIM.
I'M SUGURU... HIKAGE...
NICE TO MEET YOU.
ZMM
A TRANSFER STUDENT? I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE.
ZMM

HIKAGE, YOUR SEAT IS AT THE BACK BY THE WINDOWS.
YES, SIR.
HIS BANGS ARE TOO LONG. HOW CAN HE SEE?
DO YOU HAVE TO PICK HIM APART?
SEEMS KINDA GLOOMY.
YEAH...
WISP
WISP
WISP
MORI-GUCHI...
OH, YES, SIR?
YES, SIR?
KLAK
COME TO THE STAFF ROOM AFTER CLASS.
ENOKI...
...
ENOKI...
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
YES, SIR.
I KNEW IT WAS RUDE TO STARE...
...BUT I WAS REALLY CURIOUS ABOUT THE NEW STUDENT.

WUZZ
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU SHOULD ASK THEM.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
WUZZ

WUZZ
STAFF ROOM
WUZZ


AND I'M HITOSHI MORIGUCHI, THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
I'M TAKUYA ENOKI, THE 6TH GRADE CLASS PRES-IDENT.

...

HUH?

SNUB

SMILE

STARE
?

THANKS, I APPRE-CIATE IT. ANYWAY, I HAVE A STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING THEN.
THEN I'LL GIVE HIM A TOUR OF THE SCHOOL DURING LUNCH RECESS.
REALLY?
I DON'T THINK I LIKE HIKAGE.
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION.
BOW
DID I IMAGINE THAT? IT LOOKED LIKE HE SNUBBED ME.
MORI-GUCHI SAID THE SAME THING.
REALLY?
...WITH THAT HIKAGE GUY.
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS ...
OH, THAT'S NOT TOO FAR AWAY.
UM... Y-YOKO-HAMA...
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, SUGURU?
ARE YOU AN ONLY CHILD ?
YACK
YACK
YACK
I... I HAVE A YOUN-GER BRO-THER...
ANYWAY, YOU'RE TOO SUSPICIOUS OF PEOPLE.
NO, I'M NOT.
YOU ALWAYS THINK EVERYBODY'S ALL RIGHT, BUT NOT EVERYBODY IS.
NO, I DON'T.

STARE
!!
WUZZ
WUZZ
I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND THE CAMPUS.
HEY, HIKAGE ...
KLATTER
WELL, IT'S SOMETHING THE CLASS AGREED ON.
OH YEAH? WHO MADE THAT RULE?
HIKAGE, I NOTICED YOU DIDN'T EAT MUCH OF YOUR LUNCH.
WE'RE ONLY ALLOWED TO LEAVE ONE DISH UNEATEN.
WELL...
OKAY. THANKS.
PHEW
THE FIFTH GRADE CLASSES ARE OVER THERE.
IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD EAT EVERYTHING FROM NOW ON.
...
I CAN EAT ANY-THING.
BUT IF YOU HAVE AN ALLERGY OR SOMETHING, THAT'S DIFFERENT.
OH...

WHY DO I HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU LECTURE ME?
HUH?
CAN'T YOU JUST SHUT UP?
THAT'S THE OLDER BUILDING.
WHAM
...BOOTLICKERS LIKE YOU!!
I CAN'T STAND...
THUD

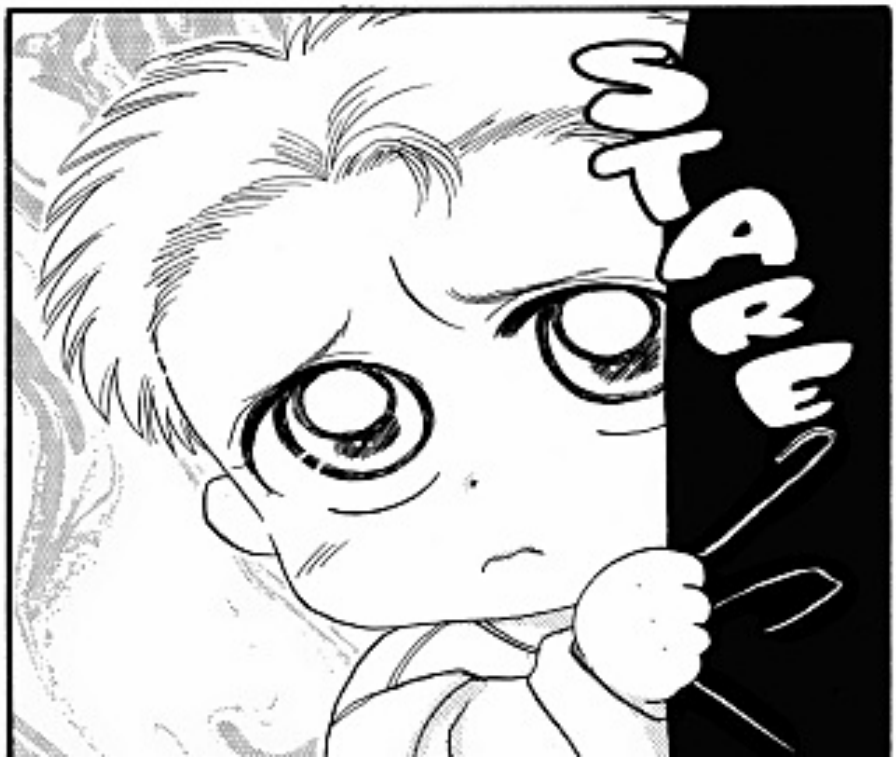
WHAT...?
HA HA HA
TAP TAP
I DON'T NEED YOU TO SHOW ME AROUND.
...WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!
LET'S GO OUT TO THE PLAY-GROUND.
THEY'RE PLAYING DODGE BALL.
THAT WAS FAST. IT DIDN'T EVEN TAKE TEN MINUTES.
UM... I THINK SO.
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
HEY, TAKUYA...
YOU DONE SHOWING HIM AROUND?

HIKAGE!!
G-GON, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OOOOH... THAT HURT!
OOF!
WHAM
WHAK
SMILE
GON!
WHY DON'T YOU WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING?!
HUH?

WUZZ
WUZZ
KUMAMOI CITY
SUNFLOWER NURSE
SCHOOL NO. 2
WHAT?!

HUH?
I FEEL LIKE I JUST SAW SOMETHING REALLY CREEPY.
UGH
STAGGERED

OH... UM... SORRY.
ORIGINAL MOUTH
TWITCH
TWITCH


STARE

MINORU ...
...WET HIS BED-DING AGAIN?

DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT GOING TO YELL AT YOU.
OH, BOY ...
SHADOW
202
...
IS THAT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER? HE LOOKS LIKE YOU.
HEY, HIKAGE!
HIKAGE ...
UM... SORRY ABOUT TODAY.
YEAH?
UM...
ENOKI...

IS THAT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER HANGING ON YOUR LEG?
I'M GLAD.
HUH? WHAT HAPPENED?!
I'VE FORGOT-TEN ABOUT IT.
OH. WELL...
HIS NAME'S MANABU.
...MY LITTLE BRO-THER.
UM... THIS IS...
YEAH.
WHUP!
THEN HE'S IN THE SAME CLASS AS FUJII'S SISTER ICHIKA.
SO HE'S IN THE TURTLE GROUP?
SMILE
HEE!
STARE
UH?

Author's Note, Part 2

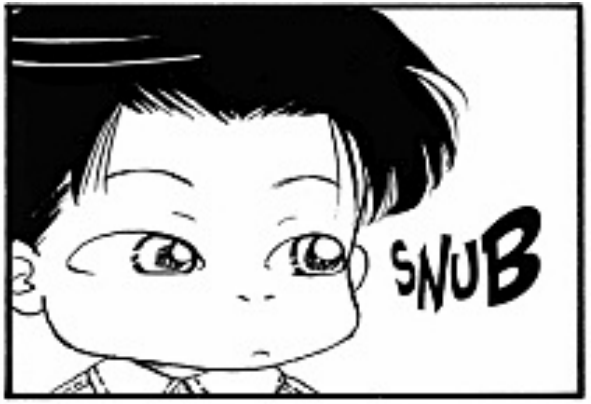
Q: It's funny that on page 14 of volume 3, the Kimuras, who live right across the street, were on a different team than the Enoki's because the dividing line ran down their street, but according to the map on page 36 of volume 5, Gon--who was on the Blue team with Takuya--lives much farther away.

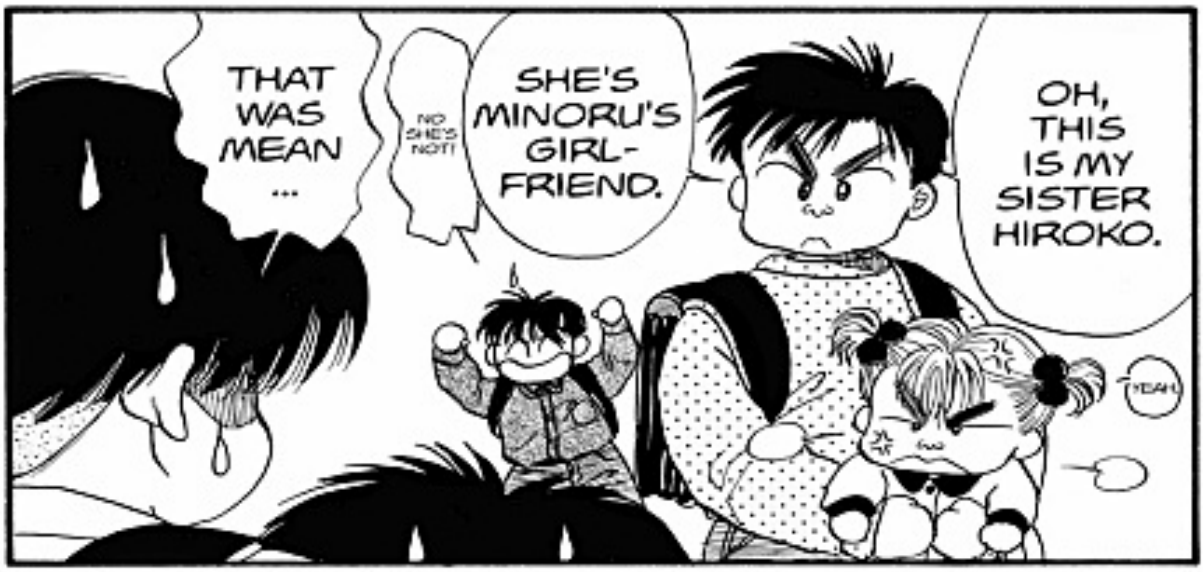
Ragawa: Well yes, that's true, but allow me to make up an excuse. The town of Nagara is divided because of its large population, but it's still considered to be one town. The Enokis and the Kimuras are from District 1, and Gon lives in District 2.

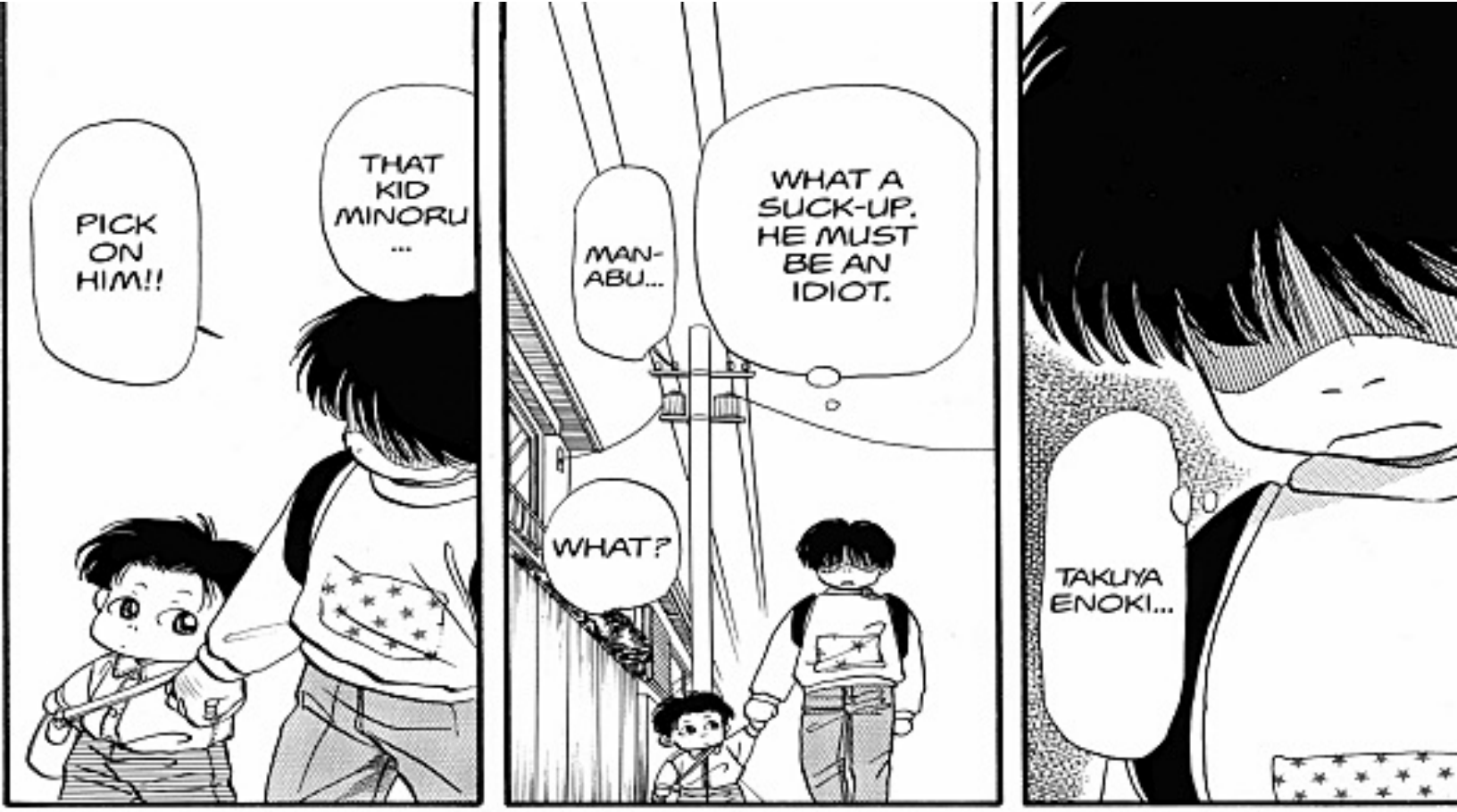
Q: In chapter 17 (page 6 of volume 4) all the kids took a share of the 5,000 yen for the festival, and there should have only been 500 yen left at the end, but the story has it that 1,500 yen was left. Wasn't that a mistake?

Ragawa: Well... Big sister Akemi took her share of the 5,000 yen, but there was actually 6,000 yen on the table to begin with. So it wasn't a mistake.

Q: In chapter 19 (volume 4), you say it's a pity that the man had to go to a home for the elderly, but please don't say that. I work at a home for the elderly, and it's a very nice place.






PICK ON HIM!!
THAT KID MINORU ...
MAN-ABU...
WHAT A SUCK-UP. HE MUST BE AN IDIOT.
WHAT?
TAKUYA ENOKI...

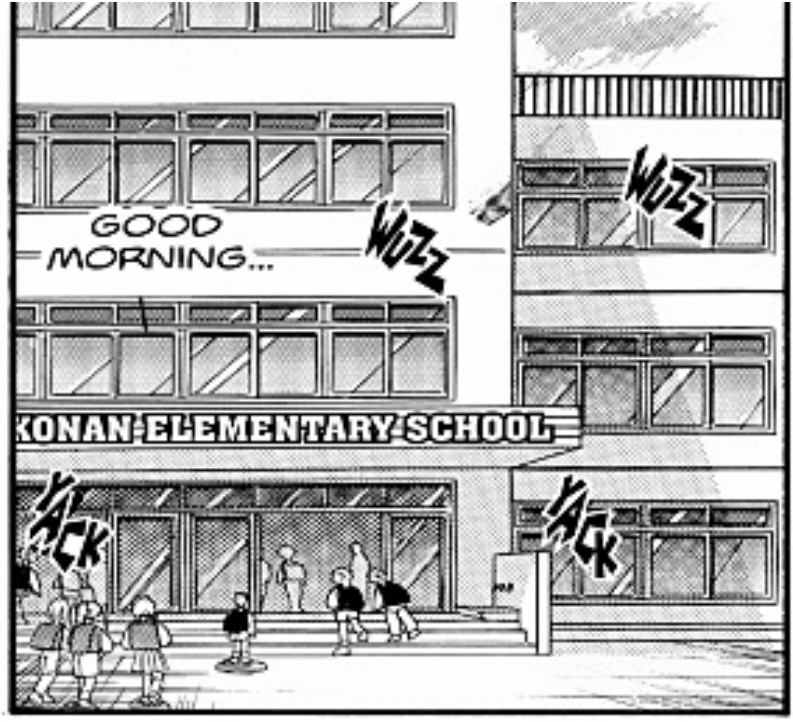
RIGHT!!
WHATEVER YOU SAY IS RIGHT, RIGHT?

BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE HIM.
HOW COME?

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT!!
JUST DO WHAT I TELL YOU AND DON'T ASK QUES-TIONS!

OKAY. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
HMM ...

HI, GON.
HEY, TAKUYA!
WUZZ
WUZZ


GOOD MORNING...
WUZZ
WUZZ
KONAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
YACK
YACK

OUCH!

I'M GONNA BEAT FUJII TODAY!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE ARE?
TOMP
TOMP

WE'RE PLAYING BASKETBALL IN P.E. TODAY.
KLAK

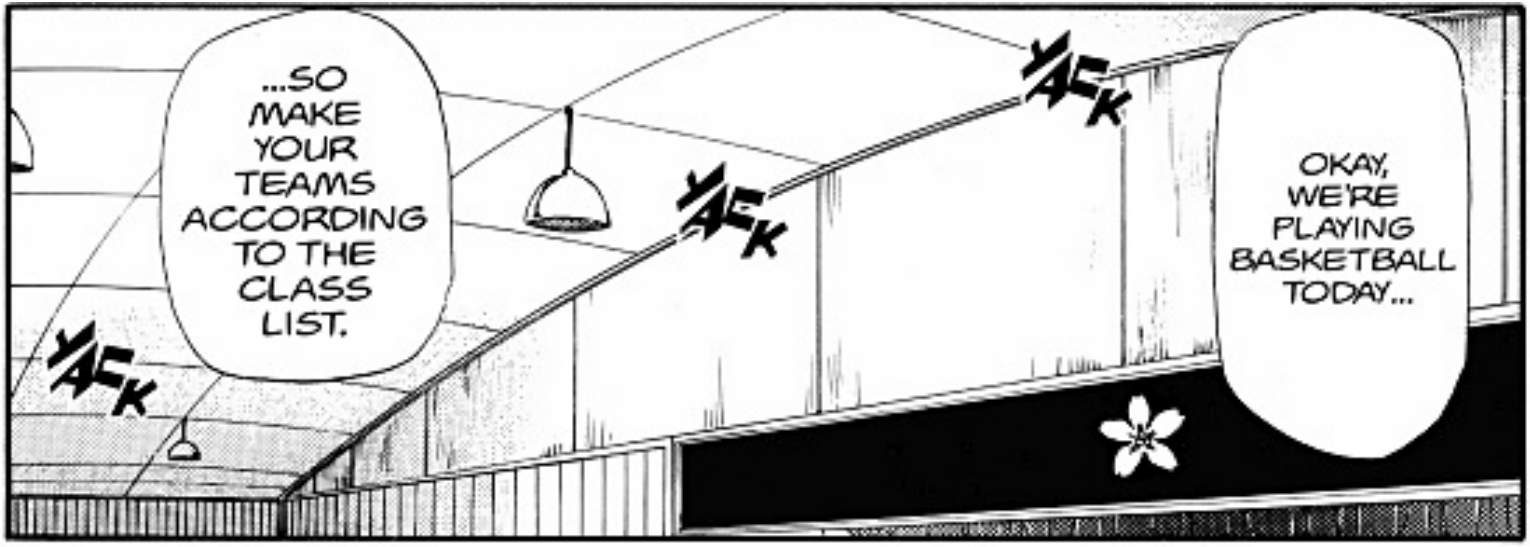
TUP
WHAT'S THIS?

SOME-THING'S STICKING MY FOOT...
OW...
WHAT'S WRONG?!

WHAM
DON'T "GOOD MORNING" ME!!
GOOD MORN-ING...
HI, GOTOH.
DON'T ACT INNOCENT! YOU PUT THIS TACK IN MY SHOE, YOU RAT!!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
D-DDANC-ING?..
BECAUSE YOU'RE JEALOUS OF MY TALENT-- MY DANCING TALENT!!
WHY WOULD I DO THAT TO YOU?!
I DON'T THINK SO.
... WIGGLE DANCE.
WIGGLE
YOU'RE JEALOUS OF MY...
WIGGLE

TAMADA TE!!

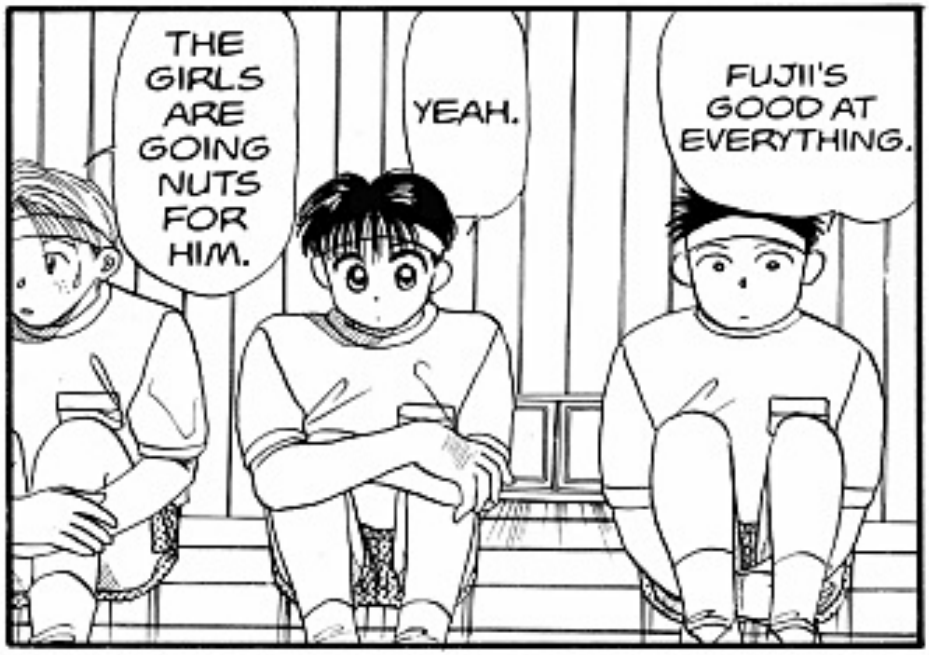
!!
HA...
THAT'S PAYBACK FOR GRABBING MY SHIRT YESTERDAY.
EXCEL-LENT.
YAGK
YAGK
HYUK HYUK HYUK
HEH HEH HEH
BLUSH
TMP TMP
?
...
I'LL SHOW THAT GUY!!
HE CAN'T LOOK DOWN HIS NOSE AT ME!!


...SO MAKE YOUR TEAMS ACCORDING TO THE CLASS LIST.
YAK
YAK
YAK
OKAY, WE'RE PLAYING BASKETBALL TODAY...

TWEEE
GET 'EM, FUJII!
LET THE BEST TEAM WIN!!

YUZZ
YEAH.
YUZZ
TAKUYA, WE'RE ON DIFFER-ENT TEAMS.

WE'RE YELLOW. I'D RATHER BE BLUE.
THROB
AND HIKAGE'S ON FUJII'S TEAM.
THROB


THE GIRLS ARE GOING NUTS FOR HIM.
YEAH.
FUJII'S GOOD AT EVERYTHING.

WHUP
YEAH!

UNH!
SWAP
HEY!
AAAH
WOW
BOING
BOING
HEY, SHUT UP!
GON DRIBBLES LIKE A DORK!
LOOK! LOOK!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
FLINCH
WHAM
!!
TIP
TIP

MORON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! FUJII PASSED YOU THE BALL AND YOU BLEW IT!!
TMP
TMP
SWUP
TMP
TMP
AAAH!!
HUH?!
UH...
TWITCH
TWITCH
THWAP
WOOSH
WHAP
...
THOSE CHEERING GIRLS ARE SCARY.
WHAT?
HUFF
WHA...

OH!
WHAM
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?!
WHY DOES HE KEEP PASSING IT TO ME?!

THAT'S THE GAME! LET'S HAVE THE NEXT TEAMS OUT.
TWEEE
THAT'S WHY FUJII KEEPS PASSING HIM THE BALL.
HIKAGE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HIKAGE PLAYS FOR CRAP, BUT HE'S ALWAYS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
HMM
WAAAH
TOMP TOMP TOMP TOMP
BUT...
HUFF HUFF
...
G-GOOD LUCK.
YOU ALL RIGHT, GON?
HUFF HUFF
MAN, THAT FUJII'S UNSTOPPABLE.
KAAH
KAAH
JUMP
TAKUYA'S GOOD AT EVERYTHING, ISN'T HE?
HUFF
HUFF
TWEE
ENOKI'S TEAM IS NEXT.

KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
TAKUYA!
RAH
HE'S SO LUCKY.
YAY!
GEEZ ...
HUFF
HUFF
YEAH?
FUJII...
...DID YOU KEEP PASSING THE BALL TO ME?!
WH-WHY...

D-DON'T LIE! YOU KNEW I WAS NO GOOD AT SPORTS, DIDN'T YOU?!
WHAT? I DIDN'T JUST PASS TO YOU.
HUH?
YOU WERE...
...TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK STUPID!!
YOU WERE JUST IN THE RIGHT SPOT.
HOW COULD I KNOW THAT?
HUH?
LIAR!!

FUJII...
HIKAGE...

WHAT A JERK!
...

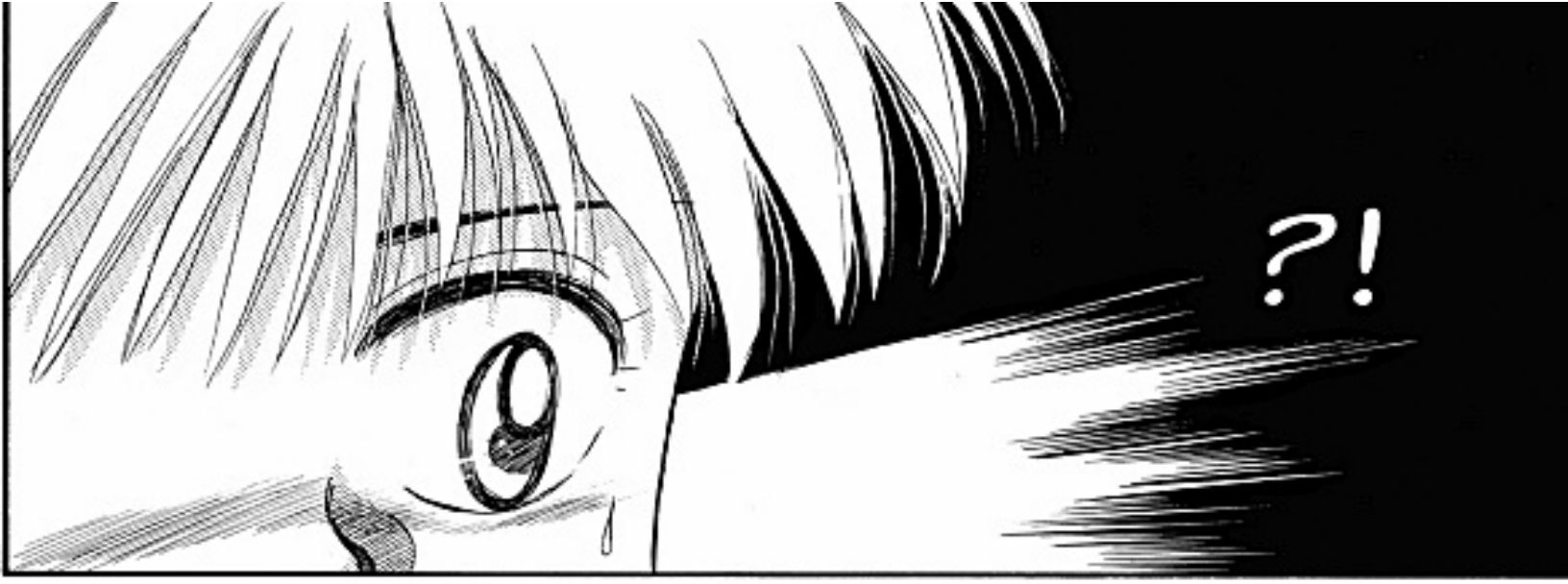
THEY WERE PUTTING AWAY THE BALLS.
YOU GUYS WILL GET IN TROUBLE.
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING? YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR YOUR NEXT CLASS!

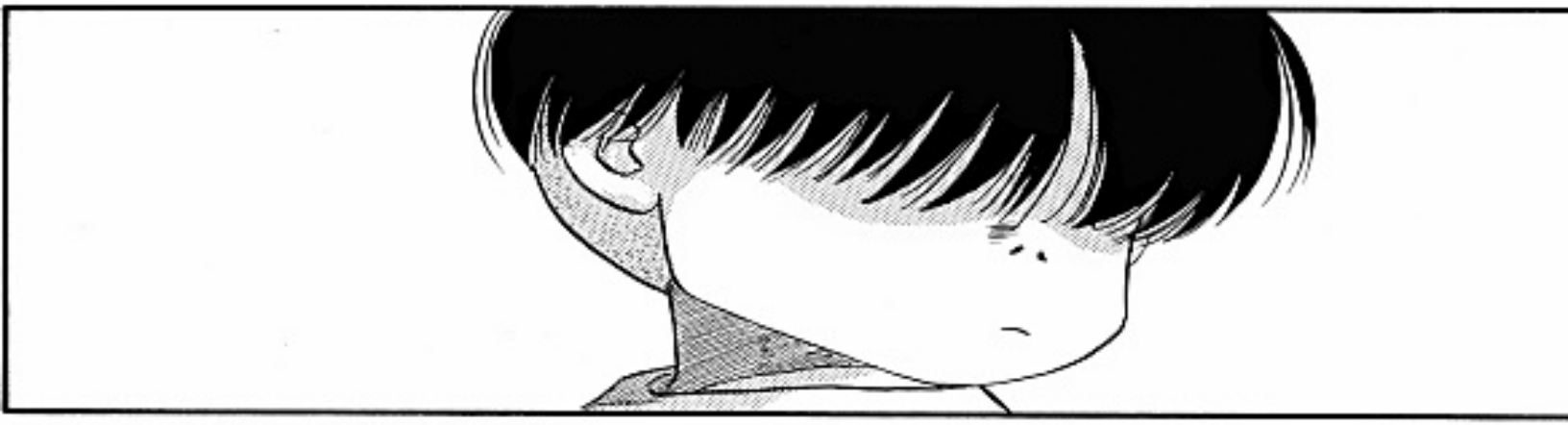
?
STARE

IT WAS NOTH-ING.
HMPH ...

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
GRUMBLE

...
TMP
TMP


?!



IT'S TIME FOR OUR END-OF-THE-DAY MEETING.
LET'S BEGIN...
WUZZ
...I BEGAN TO HAVE A BAD FEELING.
WUZZ

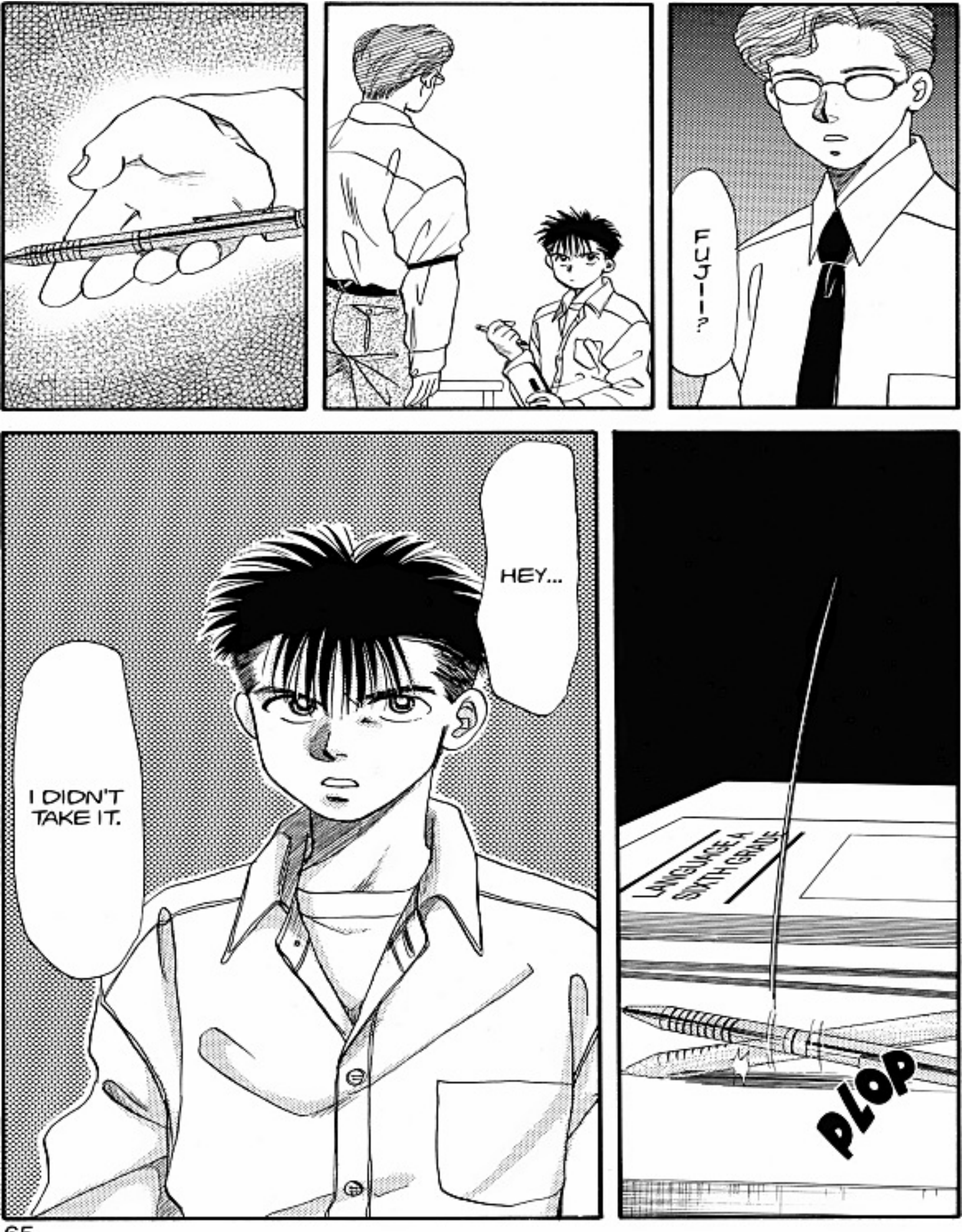
AT THAT MOMENT...
TAKUYA?

TOMORROW IS THE OPEN HOUSE.
I GAVE YOU THE NOTICE THE OTHER DAY. DID YOU GIVE THEM TO YOUR PARENTS?
YES.

TEACHER?
UM...
THROB
THROB
DAD PRO-BABLY CAN'T COME.
WUZZ WUZZ
MURMUR
MY...
...PENCIL AND WALLET ARE MISSING.
UM...
WHAT IS IT, HIKAGE?
?
IT'S GREEN AND THERE'S 2,000 YEN IN IT.
WUZZ
WUZZ
WHAT COLOR IS YOUR WALLET AND HOW MUCH IS IN IT?
IT'S GOLD COL-ORED. IT COST 1,000 YEN.*
IS THE PENCIL AN EXPENSIVE ONE?
DID YOU LOOK FOR THEM CARE-FULLY?
THEY ARE?
YES.

*ABOUT $10

PLEASE PUT ALL OF YOUR BELONG-INGS ON YOUR DESKS.
UM... IT'S NOT THAT I SUSPECT ANY OF YOU, BUT...
WUZZ
WUZZ
WHAT?!
WUZZ
OKAY. EVERYONE, JUST SETTLE DOWN.
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
NO WAY.
A 100-YEN ONE WORKS JUST FINE.
WHO USES A 1,000-YEN PENCIL?
HMPH.
THE TEACHER SEEMS EMBAR-RASSED.
THAT GUY'S TROUBLE.
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
WUZZ
WUZZ

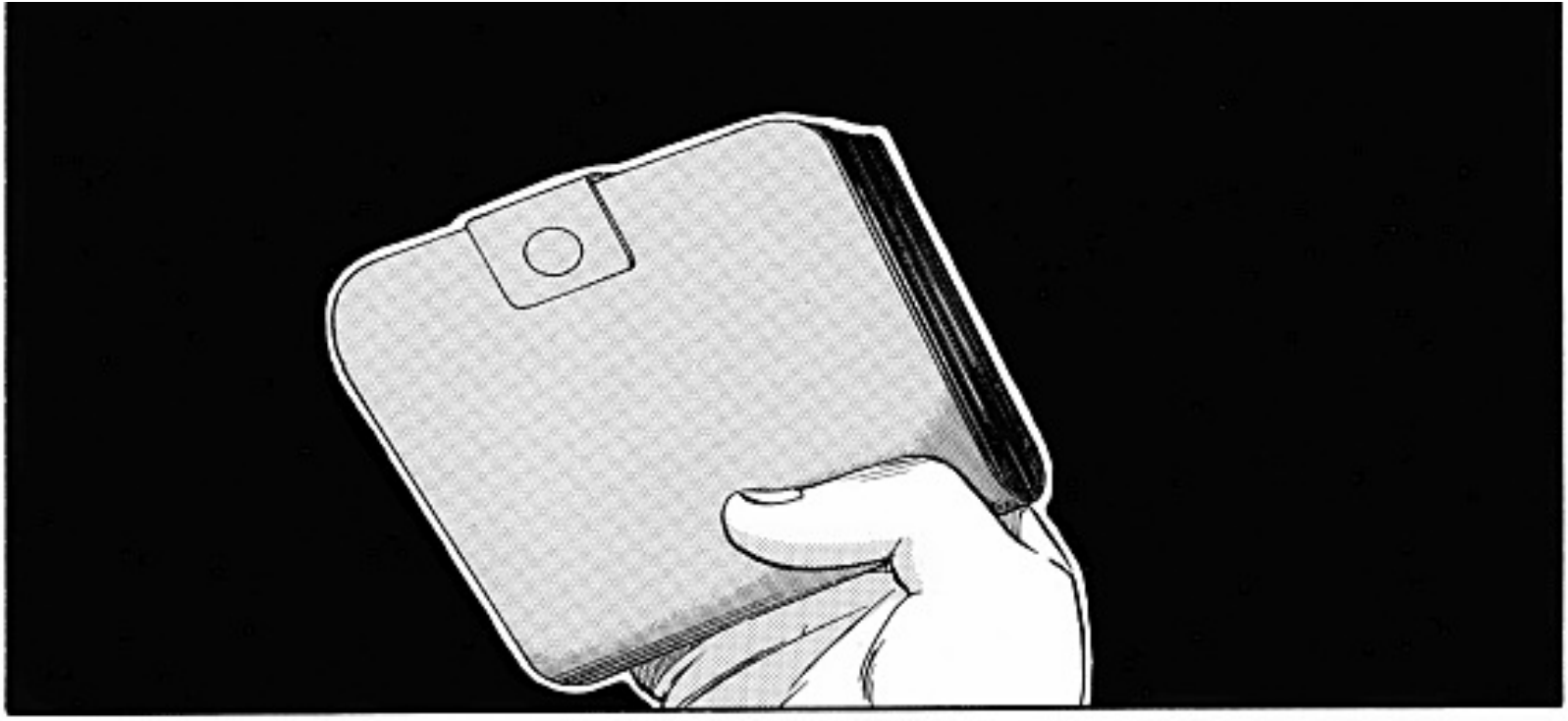

FUJII?
HEY...
I DIDN'T TAKE IT.
LANGUAGE 4
SIXTH GRADE
PLOP

BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
SWUFF
IT'S GOTTA BE A MIS-TAKE!
NO WAY! FUJII HAD THE PENCIL?!
WHAT? THAT CAN'T BE!
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
WHAT?!

BABY & Me

CHAPTER 30

SHEIN



HOW DID THIS GET IN MY BACKPACK?!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS WALLET!!

IS THIS YOURS?

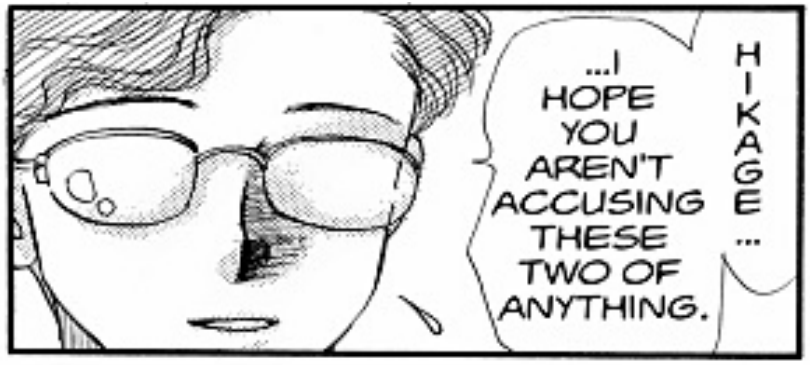
TEACHER ...

!!!

WUZZ
...
WUZZ
IT'S NOT.
NO...
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
NO WAY!
OKAY, THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.
YOU TOO, HIKAGE.
WUZZ
WUZZ
THUD
FUJII...
WUZZ
WUZZ
...AND ENOKI, I WANT YOU BOTH TO COME TO THE STAFF ROOM AFTER CLASS.
WUZZ
NO!
WUZZ

SOMEBODY MUST'VE PLANTED THAT STUFF TO FRAME THEM!
IT'S GOTTA BE A MISTAKE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
KYUZZ
KLAK
SHHAK
TELL THE TRUTH.
WERE THOSE THINGS REALLY STOLEN FROM YOU?!
KLATTER
OF COURSE THEY WERE.
YOU SHOULD KNOW, YOU HAD MY PENCIL.
THROB THROB
HIKAGE ...

LET'S GO.
ENOKI ...
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
!!
WHAP
I DIDN'T STEAL HIKAGE'S WALLET.
AND THERE'S NO WAY FUJII STOLE THAT PENCIL.
HIKAGE ...
HERE'S YOUR WALLET AND PENCIL.
...HOW SOME-THING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN.
STAFF ROOM
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...


HIKAGE...
...I HOPE YOU AREN'T ACCUSING THESE TWO OF ANYTHING.

OH... THANK YOU.

WHAT?!
YOU MAY GO, HIKAGE.

NO, SIR.

...
TMP TMP
YOU BOYS...

NO...
NO WAY!!

...DIDN'T TAKE THOSE THINGS, DID YOU?

THAT WAS A VERY BAD PRANK TO PLAY, WASN'T IT?
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO HANDLE THIS.
I'M A NEW TEACHER, SO...
...
WE CAN GO?!
SHING
YOU CAN BOTH GO HOME NOW.
OKAY.
TEACHER!!

Author's Note, Part 3 Continued from Part 2.

Ragawa: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to put down old folks' homes. I was just trying to suggest that the old man craved the love of his family. I guess I didn't make that clear enough. My apologies.

Q: I'm a nursery school teacher. In chapters 29-30 (included in this volume), the teacher scolds Minoru. No nursery school teacher would scold a child without finding out the reason behind his actions, or lay the blame on one child without getting the facts. I'm very disappointed.

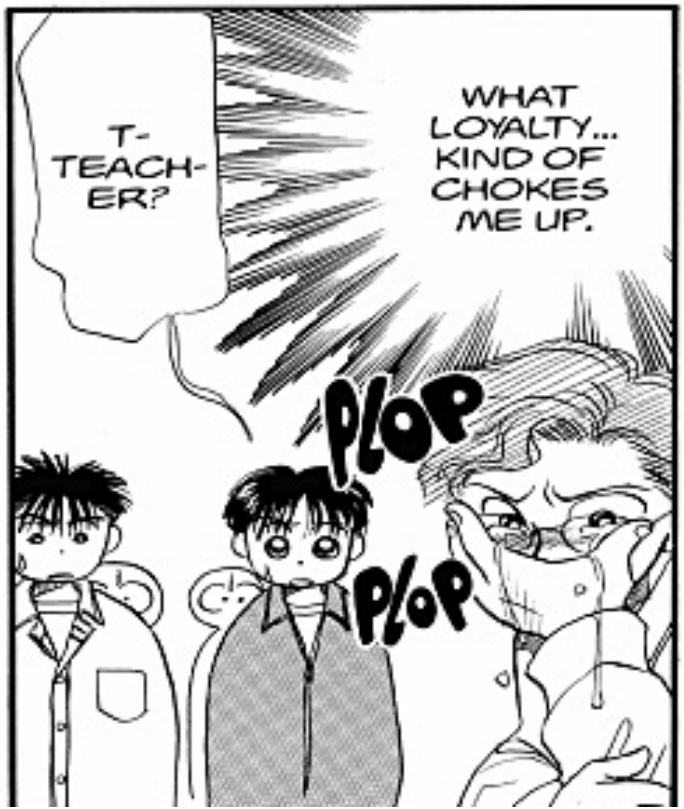
Ragawa: Oh!! Please forgive me. That's probably true in the real world, but this is a manga, and there's the flow of the story to consider, and... Oh, but that's just an excuse! I know that nursery school teachers are very kind.

And finally...

Q: Will Takuya and the others ever grow older?

Ragawa: They will not. I'll make that clear. Since the title is *Baby and Me*, I intend to keep them just the way they are. There's really not much choice--if they got older, it wouldn't be Baby and Me anymore.

End of my excuses.



ARE THEY JUST GOING TO IGNORE ME COMPLETE-LY?!
THEY HAVE ALL THE FUN...

YACK
YACK
...

UH-OH. WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!
KRK
KRK

MINORU, DO YOU NEED TO GO POTTY?
WHAT ?!

UNH...
HOLD ON!!
TMP TMP TMP

WEE-WEE...
MINOWU HAB TO WEE-WEE...
TOMP
TOMP

I HATE TAKUYA ENOKI!!
WEE-WEE...

WHUP
OKAY, GO WEE-WEE.
WEE-WEE...
RESTROOM
OH!!
OKAY, TAKE OFF YOUR PANTS, MINORU!!
OH?
FEEL BETTER?
YEAH.
WHEW
WHAT A BABY.
HE CAN'T GO POTTY WITHOUT TAKING OFF HIS PANTS.
SNUFF SNUFF
...
HUH?
YOUR PANTS ARE GONE, MINORU.

HUH?
HUM!
HUM!
BWAAH
MY PANTS!
OH!!
WHY MUST AN INNOCENT YOUNG LADY DEAL WITH SUCH THINGS?
HMPH...
SWISH SWISH
SOME-BODY'S PANTS?!
BLUSH
OH!

I WANT MINES PANTS AND UNDAWEAR ...
SOB
SOB
YOU HAVE EXTRA PANTS AND UNDER-WEAR.
DON'T CRY, MINORU.
NO!
OH!
THAT'S MINORU.
BWAAAH
BWAAAH
...AN' UNDA-WEAR...
MY'S PANTS...
WHAT'S WRONG, MINORU?!
TUP TUP
LOOK, HERE'S ICHIKA.
HUH?
ICHIKA, THAT'S...
THEY WERE ON THE FLOOR OVER THERE.
ARE THESE YOURS, MINORU?
ON THE FLOOR?

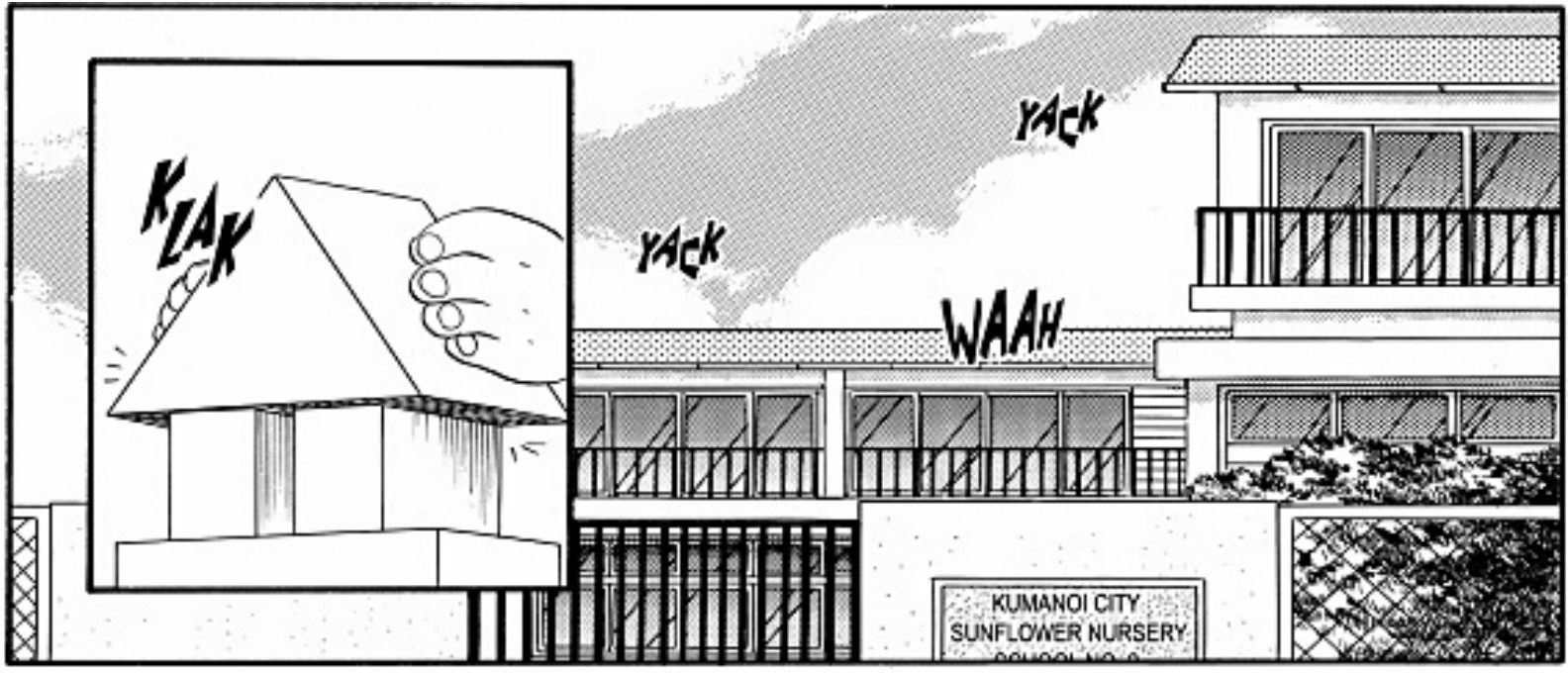
BIG BRO-THER...
I PLAYED A DIRTY TRICK ON MINORU TODAY.
WUZZ
WUZZ
YOU DID? WHAT DID YOU DO?
UM... WELL... I STOLE HIS PANTS AND UNDER-WEAR.
HUH?! BUT HE CRIED REAL HARD.
STUPID!!
THAT'S NOT MEAN ENOUGH!!
WHAK
OUCH!
YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT MEAN TRICKS, DON'T YOU, BIG BROTHER?
YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING MEANER.

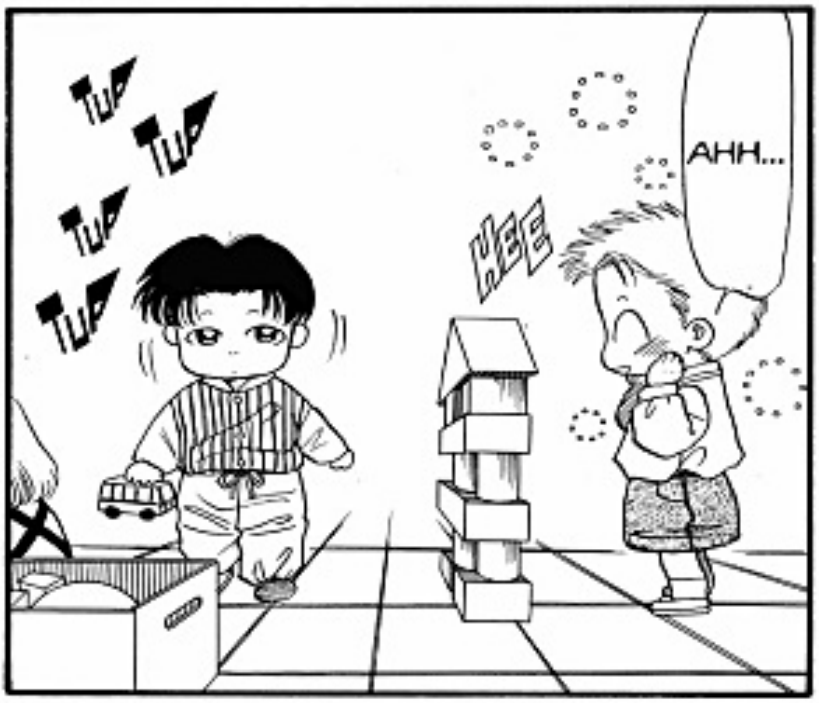
...
SLURP
MUNCH MUNCH
MY'S PANTS WENT AWAY...
...AN' COME BACK.
HUH?!
UH, NO...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
YOU TWO ARE QUIET TONIGHT.
WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?

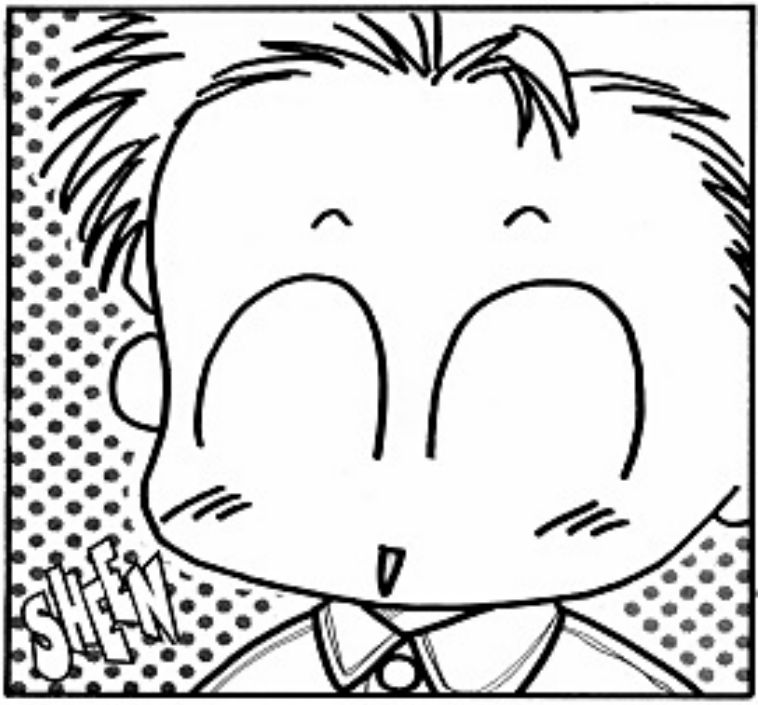
...
HUH?
DAD, TOMOR-ROW...
I WONDER IF DAD READ THAT NOTICE I GAVE HIM THE OTHER DAY.
...
YEAH. ME TOO.
UBB ...
UM... I HOPE IT'S SUNNY TOMORROW.
IT WOULD BE SELFISH OF ME.
IT'S NO USE.
DAD HAS TO WORK. I CAN'T ASK HIM TO COME TO THE OPEN HOUSE.

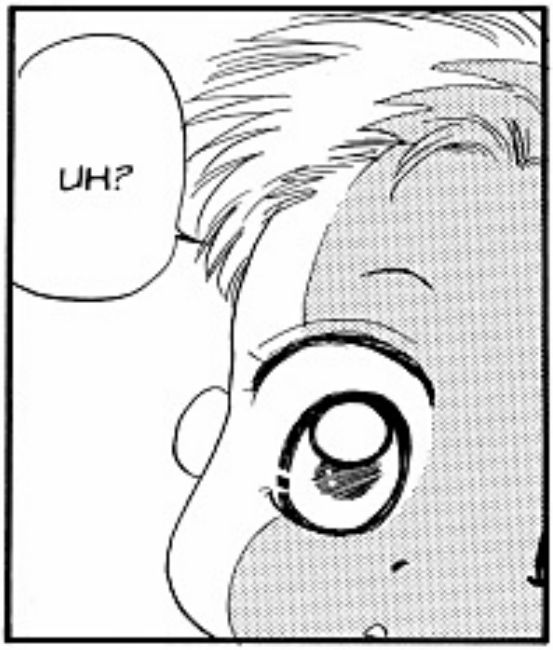
HE'S LAUGHING AT ME, JUST LIKE HIM. SKRITCH

I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING IN SCHOOL.
I'LL TAKE THE DAY OFF TOMORROW AND GO TO YOUR OPEN HOUSE.
UH... OKAY...
KLAK KLAK
YOU TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF MANABU.
I CAN GO TO WORK WITHOUT WORRYING.
ISN'T IT KIND OF DARK? SHALL I TURN ON THE LIGHT?
YEAH. THANKS, MOM.
...
SIP
YOUR FATHER MAY BE GONE, BUT YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
DON'T WORRY.
SOME-THING HAPPENED TODAY...
MOM ...
YES?


KLAK
YACK
YACK
WAAH
KUMANOI CITY
SUNFLOWER NURSERY


TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP
AHH...
HEE

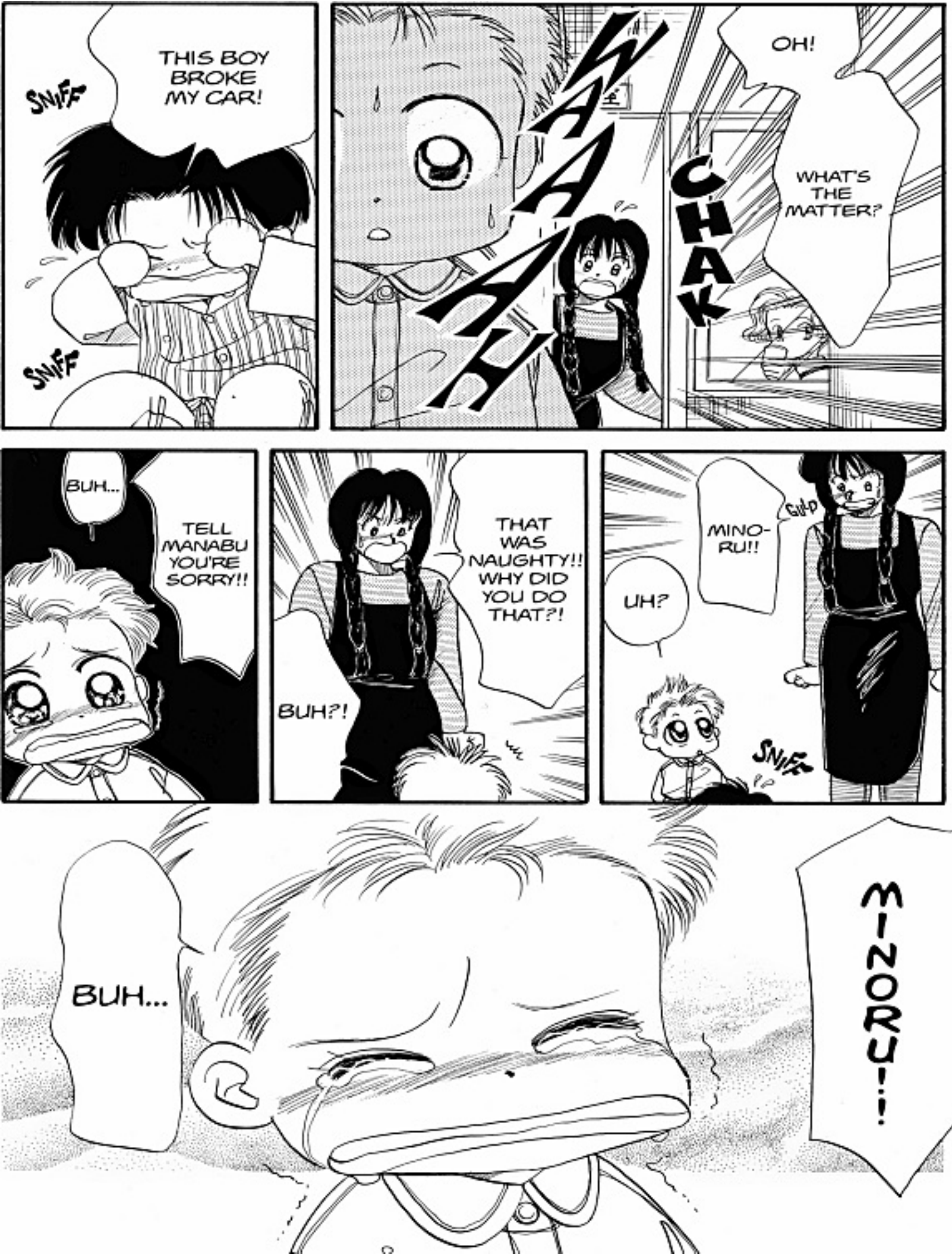

SHEN


UH?

TUP

...
SMASH
CRACK
TINK
TINK
KRAK
AH!
UMF.

UNH...
PLOP
HUH?
NO!!
NO!!
WAAA


THIS BOY BROKE MY CAR!
SNIFF
SNIFF
WAAAH
CHAK
OH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
BUH...
TELL MANABU YOU'RE SORRY!!
BUH?!
THAT WAS NAUGHTY!! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!
UH?
MINO-RU!!
Gulp
SNIFF
BUH...
MINORU!!

MINORU!! YOU MUSTN'T CRY. WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING BAD, YOU HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
UNDER-STAND?
WAAAH
I DON'T WANNA ...
WAAH!!
OH, MINO-RU ...
SOB SOB
I DON'T WANNA ...
HEE HEE
I GUESS ...
WAAH... I DON'T WANNA ...
WUZZ
WUZZ WUZZ
WUZZ
...BIG BROTHER WAS RIGHT...
CLASS 6-2
WUZZ

DARN. I TOLD HER SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO COME.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR MOM'S HERE, GON.
WOSP WOSP
WUZZ
WUZZ
I GUESS HE'S NOT COMING, AFTER ALL...
DAD...
WUZZ
WUZZ
WOSP
WOSP
FUJII'S DAD IS HERE, TOO.
OH YEAH.

WUSP
THAT'S TAKUYA'S FATHER.
WOW! HE'S HAND-SOME!!
WUSP
TWITCH
WUP WUP
OH!
DAD!!
SMILE
WUZZ
WUZZ
SUGURU ...
HMM...
...
WUZZ
WHISPER
WHISPER
WUZZ
THE AUKS, THE AUKS, LIKE SILVERY DOTS, THE AUKS.

IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING.
TAK TAK
WHAT ABOUT HIS WORK?
I'LL JUST WORK A LITTLE LATE TODAY.
I'LL GO BACK TO THE OFFICE AFTER THIS.
WHAT ABOUT WORK?
DAD...
WUZZ
KLAK
KLAK
HE CAME ...
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
WUZZ

TAKENAKA

I DON'T KNOW.
WH- WHY ARE THEY ALL LOOKING AT ME?
WUSP
WUSP
?!
BLINK
BLINK
BLINK

WE SURE DO.
WE HAVE QUITE A JOB, DON'T WE?
HA HA
YES. AND YOU'RE MR. ENOKI.
YOU'RE AKIHIRO'S FATHER, AREN'T YOU?
OH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
WUZZ
OPEN HOUS
WE MET AT THE MEIJI SHRINE ON NEW YEAR'S, DIDN'T WE?
WUZZ
EXCUSE ME...
KLAK
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK ABOUT.
YES?
ARE THERE ANY QUES-TIONS?
...HAVE DECIDED TO DO.
AND SO, THAT'S WHAT THE 6TH GRADE STUDENTS...
AND HE INFORMED ME THAT YOU DIDN'T PUNISH THE STUDENTS WHO DID IT!
UM... WELL ...
...WERE STOLEN YESTER-DAY.
I UNDER-STAND MY SON'S WALLET AND PENCIL...
I'M...
...SUGURU HIKAGE'S MOTHER.

SHE SEEMS LIKE A TOUGH ONE.
UH-OH, A FIRE-BREATHING MOTHER.
THERE WAS NO WAY FOR ME TO DETERMINE THAT THOSE STUDENTS ACTUALLY STOLE THOSE ITEMS.
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
...BE MADE TO APOL-OGIZE TO MY SON.
THOSE CHILDREN SHOULD AT LEAST...
...YOU REFUSE TO SUPPORT HIM?!
SO, EVEN THOUGH MY SON WAS A VICTIM...
AND I'M TOLD YOU SHOW A GREAT DEAL OF FAVORITISM TOWARD THEM.
...AND AKIHIRO FUJII.
THEIR NAMES ARE TAKUYA ENOKI...

...
HUH?!
...THAT'S UNFORGIVABLE IN AN EDUCATOR!!
TO ME...
WHAT?
SWUFF SWUFF
HE'S SO QUIET.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MINORU?
MINORU...
YACK
YACK
KUMANO CITY SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO. 2

YOU KNOW, YOUR BRO-THER...
...IS A LITTLE BRAT.
...
ENOKI...
!!
KUK
HE BROKE MANABU'S TOY.
HE'S VICIOUS.
HUH?

I DON'T BWEAK IT...
I...
MINO-RU...
NOT MINOWU...
GRRR
WAAH...
IT'S OKAY.
WHAT COULD HAVE HAP-PENED?

...BECAUSE OF HIKAGE.
BUT I KNOW THAT MINORU IS CRYING NOW...
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T DO IT, MINORU.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT GUY'S UP TO...
HE'S...
...MY DAD... AND THAT GUY TOOK HIM FROM ME.

BABY & Me

Chapter 31

SHE BROUGHT UP THAT THING WITH YOU AND FUJII.
SCARY HOW?

...AT THE PARENT-TEACHER MEETING AT THE OPEN HOUSE.
...HIKAGE'S MOM WAS REALLY SCARY...

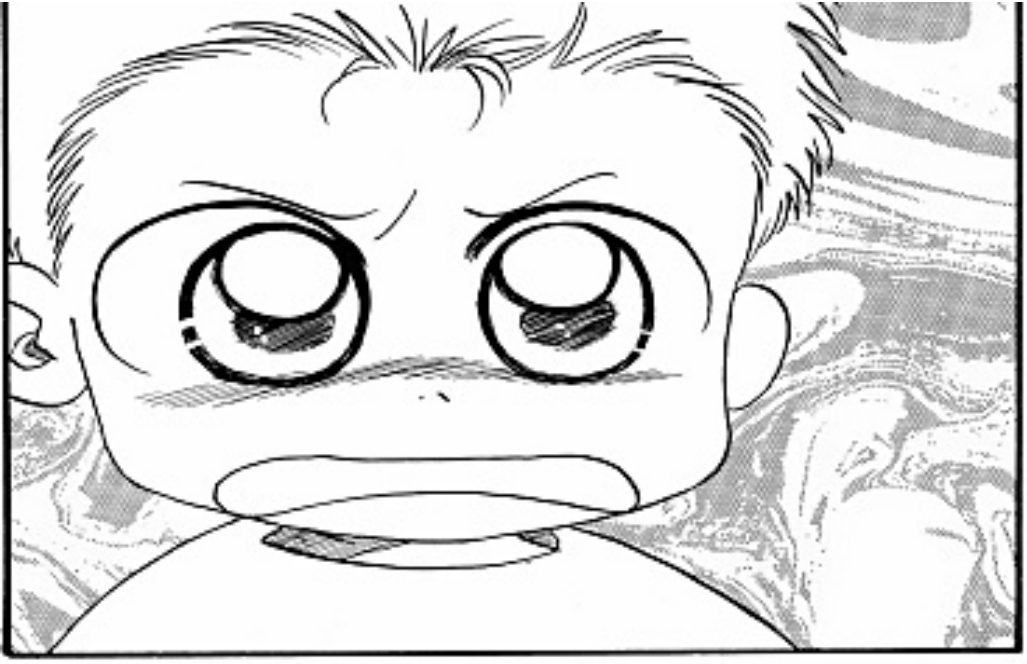
MY MOM SAID THAT...
WUZZ
WUZZ

WE KNOW YOU GUYS DIDN'T DO IT!!
WUZZ
BUT DON'T WORRY.
WUZZ
...
HOW STUPID

I WON-DER WHY...
...HIKAGE HAS IT IN FOR ME.
KLAK
KLAK

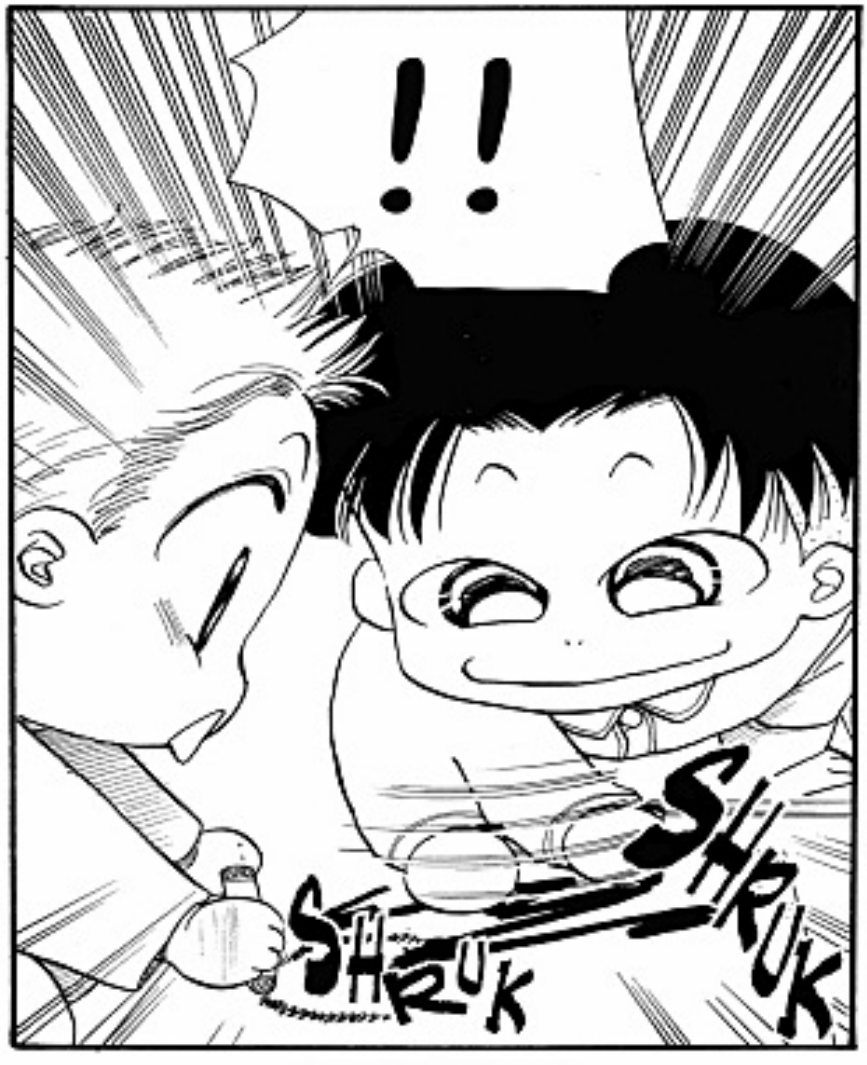
DAD...
...DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT.
HMM ...

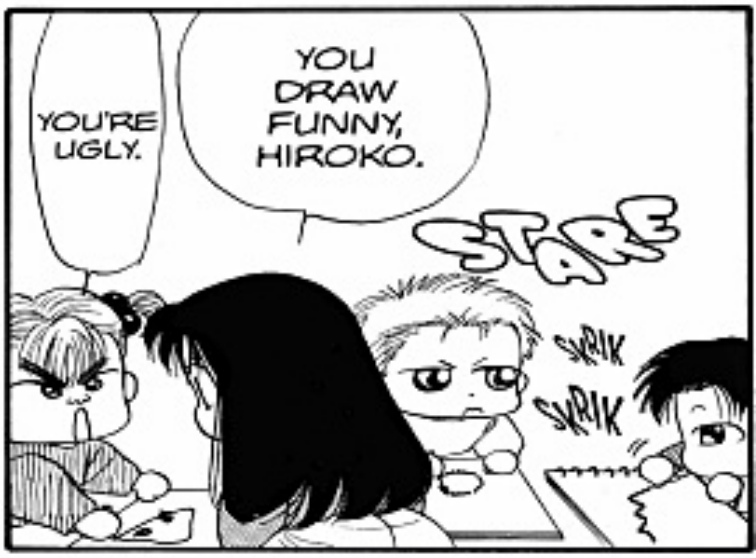
GAH
WAAH
KUMANO CITY
SUNFLOWER NURSERY
SCHOOL NO. 2
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO INVOLVE MINORU.
YEAH.
MINORU! ♡ LET'S DRAW PICTURES.
OKAY, LET'S DRAW RIGHT HERE.
WAC
WUZZ
WAC
YEAH.
CHEER UP!!
WHAT'S WITH THE LONG FACE?
TUP
TUP
GLOOM



...JOIN YOU?
CAN I...

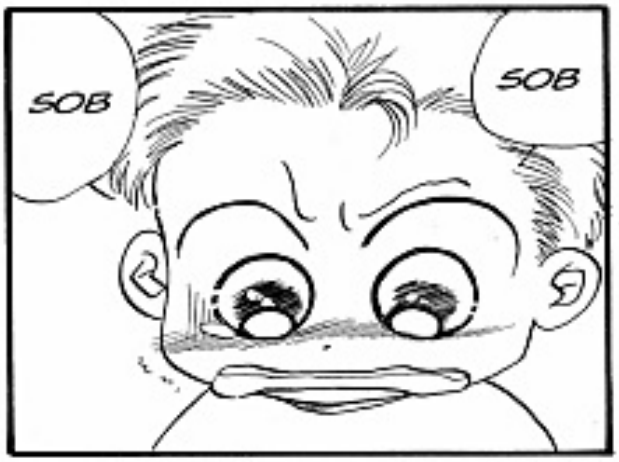
OKAY.
NOD
ALL RIGHT, BUT DON'T BOTHER MINORU!

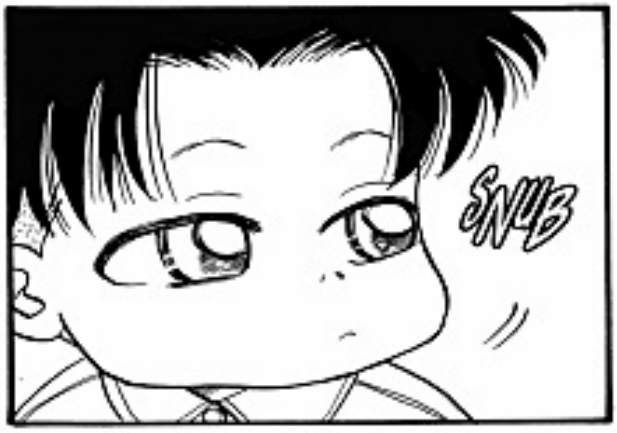

!!
SHRUK
SHRUK


YOU'RE UGLY.
YOU DRAW FUNNY, HIROKO.
STARE
SKRIK
SKRIK

HUH?

GRIN

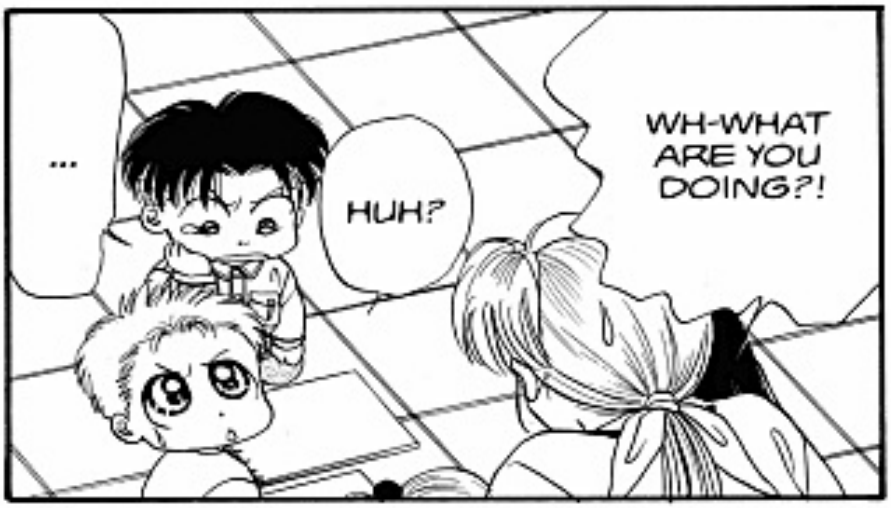

SOB
SOB


SNUB

MINO-
RU!!

SILENCE

THAT
HURT.


...
HUH?
WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

SNOB
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO HIT PEOPLE!
MINORU!
WAAAH
THAT REALLY HURT!!
WAAAH
MINO-RU...
WAAAH
...DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED?
ICHIKA, HIROKO ...
NOPE.
NO.
MINORU!
TOMP
MINORU, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
IF YOU DON'T APOLOGIZE, I'M GOING TO TELL YOUR BROTHER!

SOB...
UCK...
DID I GO TOO FAR?
HMM ...
NYAH!
WAH!
HIC
BUT I DON'T LIKE THIS.
BROTHER TOLD ME TO DO IT.
BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

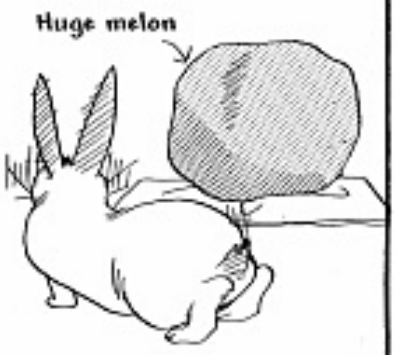
HE'S TAKUYA ENOKI'S BROTHER, SO THAT MAKES HIM THE ENEMY!
YES!
IT DOES?
?
...DO I STILL HAVE TO BE MEAN TO MINORU?
WUSP WUSP
BRO-THER..
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
WHAM
?!
AND SHE BELIEVES ME.
I ASKED MOM TO COMPLAIN ABOUT HIM, TOO.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
...
UMM...
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO START STUDY-ING!
SHAKE
SHAKE
M-MOM ...

Author's Note Part 4

Yoshizo today.

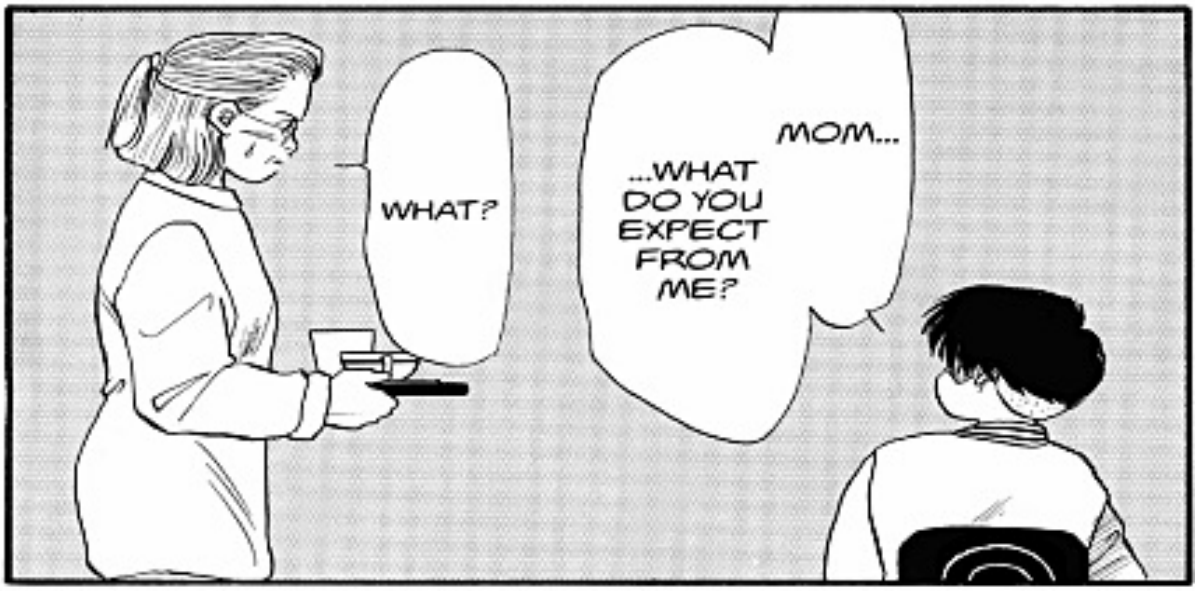
Yoshizo is a rabbit, but she lies down like this. I can see her nipples. That's weird, Yoshizo.

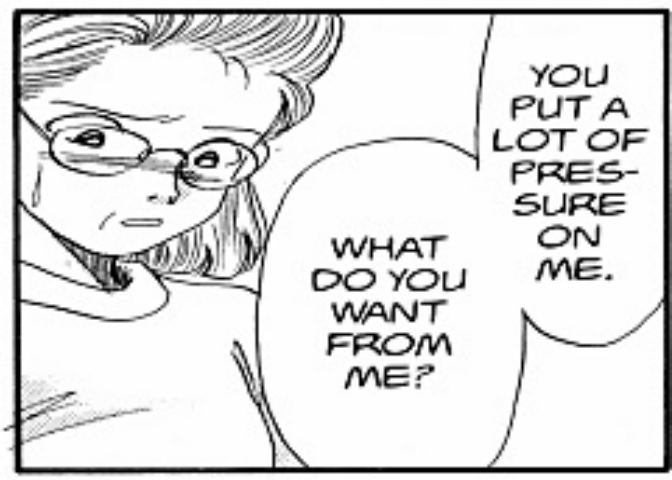
Yoshizo always sits in her litter box. If I can't find her, I just look in her litter box, and there she is.



I didn't have any place to put it, so I put this melon on her bed. Yoshizo eyed it with suspicion. I wonder what she was afraid of.

If I leave her alone for a while, she starts running round and round my feet. You're such a pest, Yoshizo.





YOU'RE A DIVORCED SINGLE PARENT.
AND WE'RE SURE NOT RICH.
NO PRESTIGIOUS PRIVATE SCHOOL'S EVER GOING TO ACCEPT ME.
B-BRO-THER...
I'M NOT SMART.
I...
QUIT USING YOUR KIDS. IT'S NOT RIGHT!
JUST STOP IT, OKAY?!
ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS SHOWING UP DAD.
?!
KRASH

KLAK
MINO-RU!
GET UP! YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!
CHEEP
CHEEP
M-MOM ...
I'M TIRED. I THINK I'LL GO TO BED.
I NOT GOIN' TO SCHOOL.
DON' WANNA.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? COME ON, GET UP.
I NOT GOIN'.

WE'LL BE FINE.
TUG
HUH?
BUT ...
TAKUYA, LET ME HANDLE HIM.
...
MINO-RU...
...USUALLY LIKES TO GO TO NURSERY SCHOOL.
OKAY. BYE-BYE.
UH ...
FWAP FWAP
HEY, ENOKI.
TAP
...SOME-BODY'S PICKING ON HIM.
KLAK
I THINK ...

I HAVE A FEELING HE'S BEEN PICKING ON MINORU.
WHAT? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
ICHIKA TOLD ME...
HEY, FUJII.
...THAT MINORU HIT HIKAGE'S BROTHER YESTER-DAY.
MY DAD DIDN'T BELIEVE HER, THANK GOOD-NESS.
THEIR MOTHER COMPLAINED ABOUT US AT THE PARENT-TEACHER MEETING.
YEAH.
WUZZ
WUZZ
I DON'T THINK IT'LL DO ANY GOOD TO TALK TO HIKAGE. HE'S A STUBBORN JERK.
I'VE BEEN LOOK-ING FOR YOU.
HIKA-GE...
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME, BUT LEAVE MINORU OUT OF IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
STOP PICKING ON MINORU.
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO DO IS PUNCH ME, RIGHT?
I HATE YOUR ATTITUDE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST?
BOY...
!!
I HATE EVERYONE THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU...
...INCLUDING MINORU!!
HUH?
YOU'RE SO COOL JUST BECAUSE YOUR DAD CAME TO THE OPEN HOUSE.
WELL YOU'RE RIGHT, I DO HATE YOU!

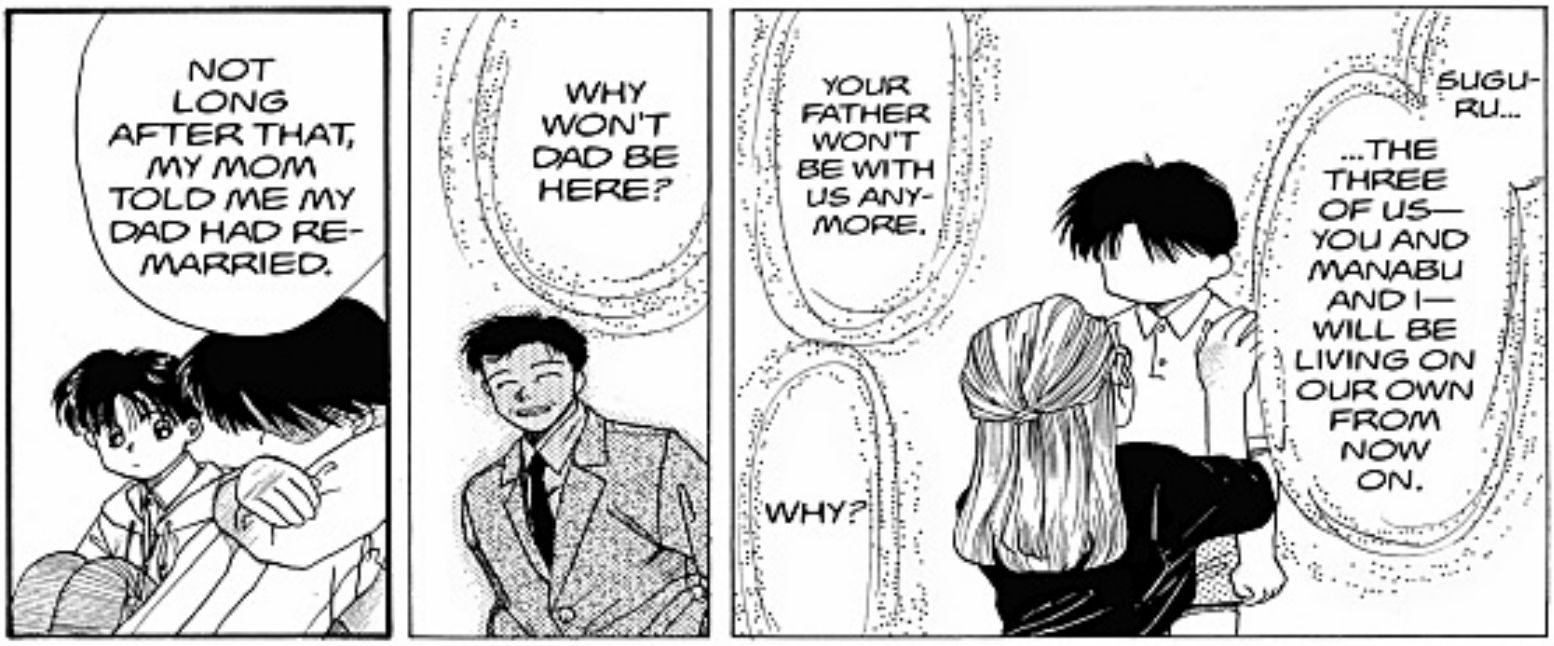
SEE? YOU ACTED LIKE YOU WANTED TO BE MY FRIEND, BUT NOW WE SEE YOUR TRUE COLORS!
S...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HIM WHO?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE HIM!

HUH?
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I HATE YOU?
HERE IT IS.

...YOU'LL BE SORRY!!
IF YOU MAKE MINORU CRY AGAIN...

MY PARENTS GOT DIVORCED WHEN MANABU WAS ONE.
SUGU-RU...
I FOUND OUT ABOUT HIM A YEAR AGO.
IT WAS LIKE MY DAD HAD CHEATED ON ME.
I'VE GOT A HALF-BROTHER WHO'S THE SAME AGE AS ME.


NOT LONG AFTER THAT, MY MOM TOLD ME MY DAD HAD RE-MARRIED.
WHY WON'T DAD BE HERE?
YOUR FATHER WON'T BE WITH US ANY-MORE.
WHY?
SUGU-RU...
...THE THREE OF US— YOU AND MANABU AND I— WILL BE LIVING ON OUR OWN FROM NOW ON.

YOU'RE SUGURU HIKAGE, AREN'T YOU?
HEY...
THEN ONE DAY...
SHE SAID HE MARRIED A WOMAN HE'D BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH FOR YEARS.

FORGET OUR PARENTS. LET'S BE FRIENDS.
KENJI LIVED IN A NEIGHBORING TOWN. HE SAID HE WANTED TO MEET ME BECAUSE I WAS HIS BROTHER.
YOUR DAD IS MY DAD NOW.
I'M...
...KENJI KURITA.
AND THEN...
SO I STARTED TELLING HIM ABOUT OUR DAD BEFORE THE DIVORCE.
WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MY DAD LIKE THAT?!
I THOUGHT, WHY NOT? SO WE GOT TO BE PRETTY CLOSE.
...ABOUT HOW THEY PLAYED TOGETHER— LIKE DAD WAS HIS ALONE.
...'CAUSE EVERY TIME WE'D MEET HE'D START BRAGGING ABOUT OUR DAD...
...
BUT IT FELT KINDA WEIRD...

...CARRIES A PICTURE OF YOU AND YOUR MOM, BUT...
HE...
HE'S NOT YOURS ANY-MORE!
HE'S MY DAD!
WHAT?
THAT WOMAN'S SON IS GOING TO TRY FOR A FANCY PRIVATE SCHOOL.
HE WAS... MY DAD...
THAT GUY WAS SO MEAN ...
FINE. I'LL PUT SUGURU INTO ONE, TOO.
...IN THE END, HE CHOSE US!
AND IT SERVES YOU RIGHT!!

BUT... I DON'T HAVE A MOTHER.
...
YOU'RE JUST LIKE HIM.
I HAVE MY PRIDE.
YOU WANTED TO SHOW OFF BY HAVING YOUR DAD COME TO THE OPEN HOUSE.
I DON'T WANT MY MOM.
I...
SHE LEANS ON MANABU AND ME TOO MUCH.
I CAN NEVER SEE HER.
WHAT?
YOU CAN GO SEE YOUR FATHER IF YOU WANT TO, BUT...
...MY MOTHER'S DEAD.
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, WE'RE ALL ALONE IN THIS WORLD.
I DON'T NEED HER.

HOW CAN YOU THINK LIKE THAT?!
?!
YOU'RE SICK!!
THAT'S ...
...NEED YOU!
AND YOUR MOTHER AND BROTHER ...
I... I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT MY DAD OR MINORU.
...YOUR PICTURE AROUND, DOESN'T HE?
HE CAR-RIES ...
AND SO DOES YOUR FATHER!

BUT...
...I CAN TELL THAT YOUR FATHER HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS HEART FOR YOU AND MANABU.
GROWNUPS AREN'T LIKE KIDS. THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH A LOT OF THINGS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND.
MY PICTURE?!
HE GOT JEALOUS WHEN HE FOUND OUT YOUR FATHER STILL LOVED YOU.
KENJI WAS PROBABLY THINKING THE SAME THING.
IF HE DOES, WHY DIDN'T HE KEEP BEING MY FATHER?
... ABOUT THAT ...
I DON'T KNOW ...
THINK OF ME AS TAKUYA ENOKI AND LET'S BE FRIENDS.
I'M NOT KENJI, I'M ME.
HIKAGE...

WHY DIDN'T I SEE THAT?
OKAY?
I'VE DECID-ED...
WH-WHAT?!
SUGURU ...
KIK
TOMP
HA HA HA HA
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO PRIVATE SCHOOL ...

...YOU AND MANABU MEAN EVERY-THING TO ME.
YOU KNOW ...
IT WAS WRONG OF ME TO PUSH YOU SO HARD.
YOU WERE RIGHT.
I DON'T?
...I NEED YOU.
SUGURU ...
PLUP
I'M SORRY.
M-MOM...
PLEASE ...
...DON'T HATE ME.
I WAS WRONG!
I'D NEVER... HATE YOU...

ENOKI ISN'T LIKE KENJI.
DEEP DOWN, I ALWAYS KNEW THAT.

I LOVE YOU, MOM.
I...

SUGURU ...
GRANDPA AND GRANDMA...
...HAVE ASKED IF WE'D LIKE TO MOVE OUT TO THE COUNTRY WITH THEM.

FROM THE MOMENT I MET HIM...
...I KNEW HE WAS A GOOD GUY.

WOULD THAT BE OKAY WITH YOU?

YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
HERE ...
WUZZ
WUZZ
HEY.
SUNFLOWER NURSERY
A WEEK LATER ...
?
I ALWAYS LIKED YOU.
GOOD-BYE.
HUH?
YOU CAN HAVE IT.
I'M GOING TO MAKE A PHONE CALL, SO WAIT HERE.
OKAY.
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
KUMANOI STATION
...SUGURU HIKAGE IS MOVING TO KYOTO TODAY.
THIS IS RATHER SUDDEN, BUT...
I HEARD HIKAGE WAS GOING TO CHANGE SCHOOLS AGAIN.
WUZZ

SKWEEK
BEEP BEEP
DIARY?
MY DIARY.
RHP RHP
MONTH__DAY TUESDAY
HE MAKES ME SO MAD.
HIS NAME IS SAKURA ENOKI.
I HATE ENOKI BECAUSE HE REMINDS
ME OF HIM. HE'S LAUGHING AT ME ON
THE INSIDE, JUST LIKE HIM. I HATE
JJI, TOO. HE THINKS HE'S SO COOL...
OKAY.
SUGURU, MANABU...
LET'S GO.
WHAT'S THAT, BRO-THER?
I SURE WROTE A LOT...
RHP
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
THEY MAY BE GONE ALREADY.
BUT THEY MAY STILL BE THERE.
I WANT TO THROW AWAY SOME TRASH.
JUST A MINUTE.

HIKAGE!
!!
HUFF
HUFF
WHY?
...WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE.
PHEW. I WAS AFRAID YOU'D GO...
HUFF
HUFF
WHY?
WHY ARE THEY HERE?
HE CAME TO SEE ME OFF?
GOODBYE.
HUFF
TAKE CARE.

SO DUMB...
WHUP
HEY, HIKAGE, DON'T GO PULLING ANY FUNNY STUFF AT YOUR NEW SCHOOL.
WOW.
HE REALLY IS DUMB.

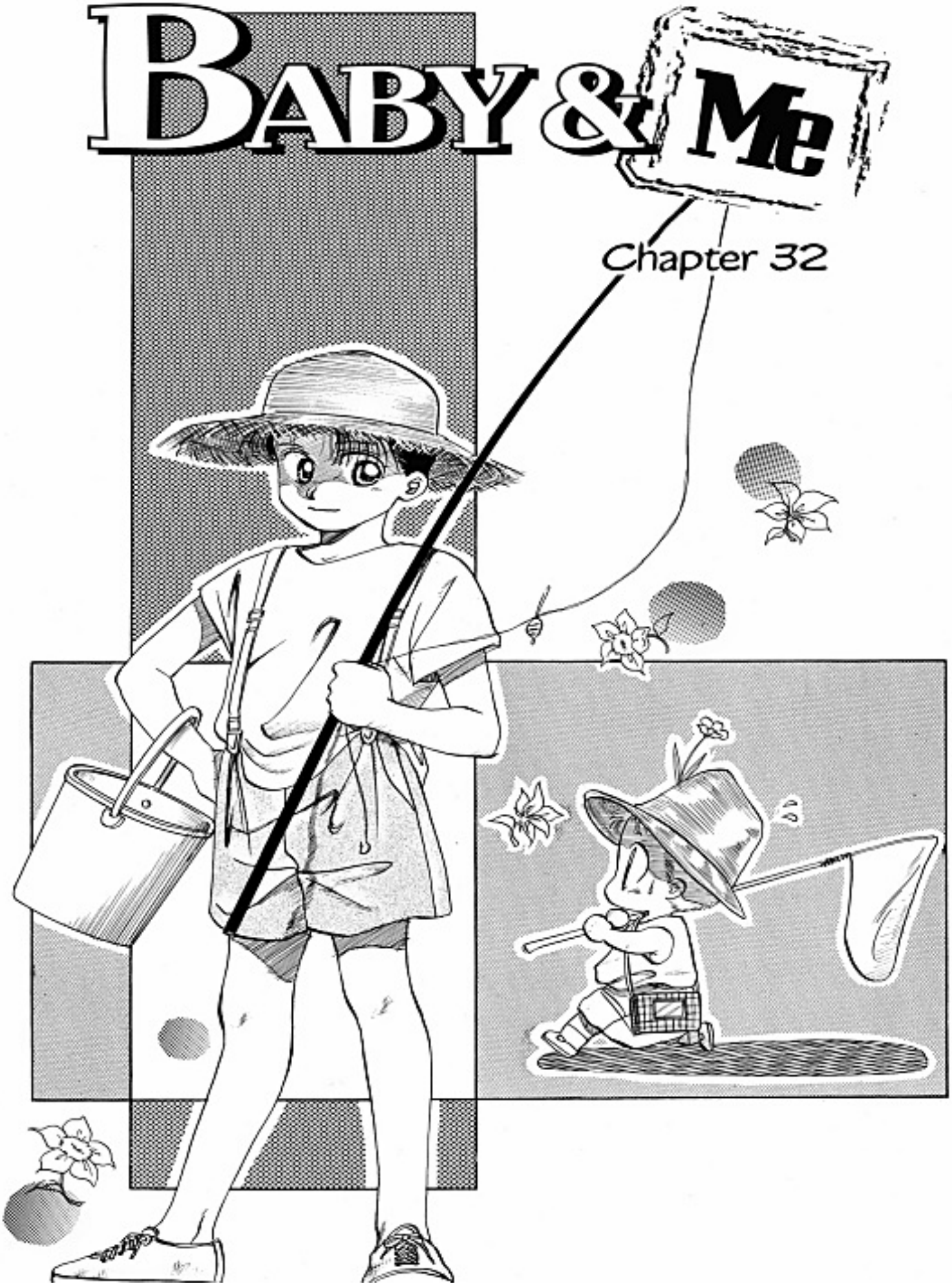
AHH
PWITTY ...
SO LONG.
AND THEN ...
...HIKAGE WAS GONE.
THE CONFETTI WAS PROBABLY HIS WAY OF SAYING...
...THANK YOU.
WHAT'S THIS?
I HATE KNOW HE REMINDS ME

I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T STAY LONGER.
3
TWEEE
YOU GOT TO SAY GOODBYE?
YEAH.
HE'S GONE. IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST.
YEAH. AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS A TROUBLE-MAKER.
YEAH. BUT...
LATER ...
IT'S OKAY, 'CAUSE I HAVE LOTS OF MEMORIES.
HMPH! KIDS NOWADAYS, LITTERING! YOUR PARENTS AREN'T TEACHING YOU RIGHT!
HE WAS A TROUBLE-MAKER TO THE END...
...
PICK UP EVERY LITTLE PIECE-- NOW!

CHAPTER 31/THE END

BABY & Me

Chapter 32



ALL RIGHT...
...GET INTO YOUR GROUPS, PLEASE.
IT CAN BE ON ANYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH THE OLDEN DAYS.
THE OLDEN DA
KLAK
I'D LIKE YOU...
...TO BREAK INTO GROUPS OF SIX TO WORK ON A RESEARCH PROJECT.
KONAN ELEMENTAR
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT WRITING.
YOU SHOULD DO IT, MORI-GICHI.
TAKUYA ENOKI
WE HAVE TO CHOOSE A LEADER.
AKIHIRO FUJII
I THINK TAKUYA WOULD BE GOOD.
HITOSHI MORIGUCHI

...
SHINAKO FUKAYA
THE LEADER?!
WHAT?! ME?!
TAMADATE
YOU DO IT!
OKAY, IN THAT CASE...
TADASHI GOTOH
IT'S EXTRA WORK...
YOU PROBABLY REALIZED THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THIS GROUP FIT FOR THE JOB.
HA HA HA
I'M THE ONLY GIRL IN THIS GROUP.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WANTED ME...
UM, I...

TAKE IT EASY.
SO WHAT SHOULD WE RESEARCH?
...
YACK
YACK
YACK
YOUR PARENTS ARE OLD, SO WE THOUGHT THAT WOULD GIVE US AN EDGE IN THE RESEARCH.
EXCUSE ME?!
...AND ON RESEARCHING WHAT OUR FATHERS DID FOR FUN WHEN THEY WERE KIDS.
WE DECIDED ON THE TITLE "WHEN MY DAD WAS YOUNG"...
WAKE UP...
HEY, WAKE UP.
OOH ...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
PAT
PAT
HEY, DAD... DAD...
DADDY.
THEN, ON SUNDAY...

I DRANK TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT.
PLEASE... I DON'T GET A FREE DAY VERY OFTEN. LET ME SLEEP IN, OKAY?
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
UGH...
...
OH, NEVER MIND. MINORU AND I WILL BE JUST FINE BY OURSELVES.
THEN YOU CAME HOME DRUNK LAST NIGHT.
YOU SAID YOU'D HELP ME WITH MY PROJECT TODAY...
DADDY NAUGHTY...
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
...
YOU LIED!
HAIR STANDING UP
GLUG GLUG
STARE
KSHHH
HMPH

WHAT SORT OF RESEARCH ARE YOU DOING?
SHLUP
SHLUP
SO?
ALL RIGHT ...
HURRAY!
I'M ALL YOURS TODAY.
HOP HOP
WHAT I DID FOR FUN?
...WHAT YOU USED TO DO FOR FUN WHEN YOU WERE A KID.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TELL ME...
IT'S NOT REALLY RE-SEARCH ...
KRUNCH KRUNCH
OKAY. WHY DON'T WE GO THERE?! SEEING IT FOR YOURSELF IS BETTER THAN WORDS!!
Baseball 1
I USED TO PLAY UP ON THAT HILL A LOT.
THERE WAS A FOREST AROUND THERE, TOO.
...
HUH?
I DON'T KNOW. I NEVER SHOPPED AROUND THERE.
IS MATSUYA CANDY STORE STILL UP THERE ON THE HILL?

TAG, SWORD-FIGHTING...
LIKE WHAT?
THE SAME THINGS YOU BOYS DO NOW.
WHAT KIND OF STUFF DID YOU DO FOR FUN?
DAD, TELL ME ABOUT THE OLD DAYS.
GOTOH LIQUOR STORE
...A B C...
ON THE SHORES OF...
SING IT SLOWLY, OKAY? I'M GONNA WRITE IT DOWN.
WE MADE UP A SONG TO THAT.
YOU KNOW THAT ALPHABET SONG?
OH YEAH...
WE USED TO MAKE UP SONGS, TOO.
...DING DONG DING...
...A CRAB PINCHED MY...

DAD, TEACH ME A GOOD SONG, OKAY?
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
"HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE"?
THAT HURT.
BONK
WHAT ARE YOU SINGING?!
TAKE THAT! YOU STUPID MAN!
!!
"HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE"?
IT'S AN OLD NURSERY SONG.
HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE...
THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE...
THE COW JUMPED OVER THE MOON...
OF COURSE, WE USED TO SING IT LIKE THIS...
HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE...
THE CAT DID A FIDDLE...
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLOOR...
DON'T YOU KNOW ANY NICE SONGS?!
WHAM

Author's Note Part 5 The Making of...

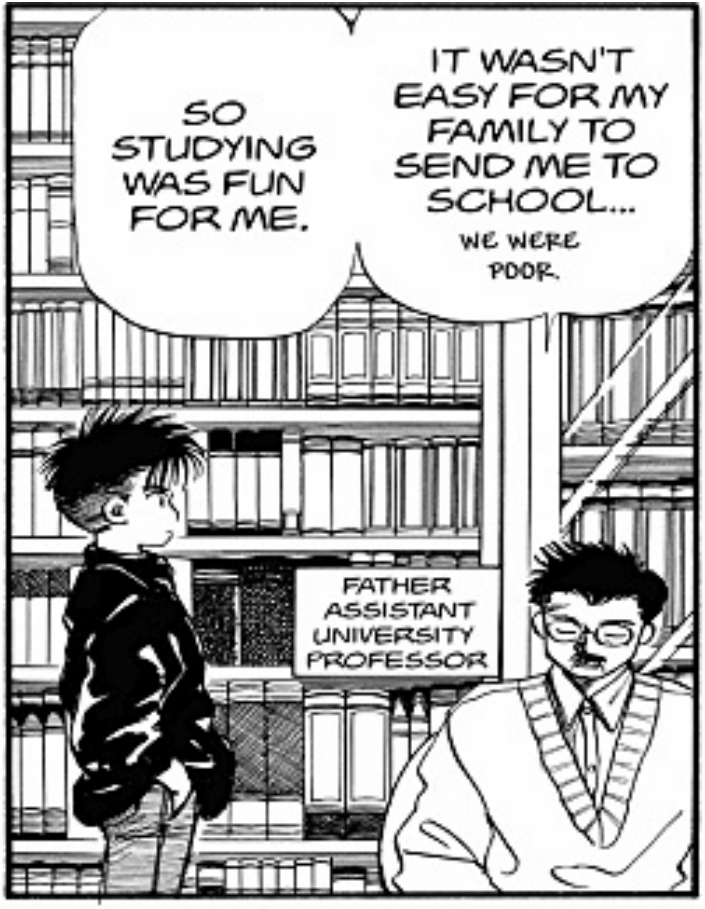
"Dumb, Flighty, and Selfish" is my award-winning story, and it is reprinted in this volume beginning on page 159. This is the one I drew on sketch paper. This anecdote is really famous. It's almost become a legend.

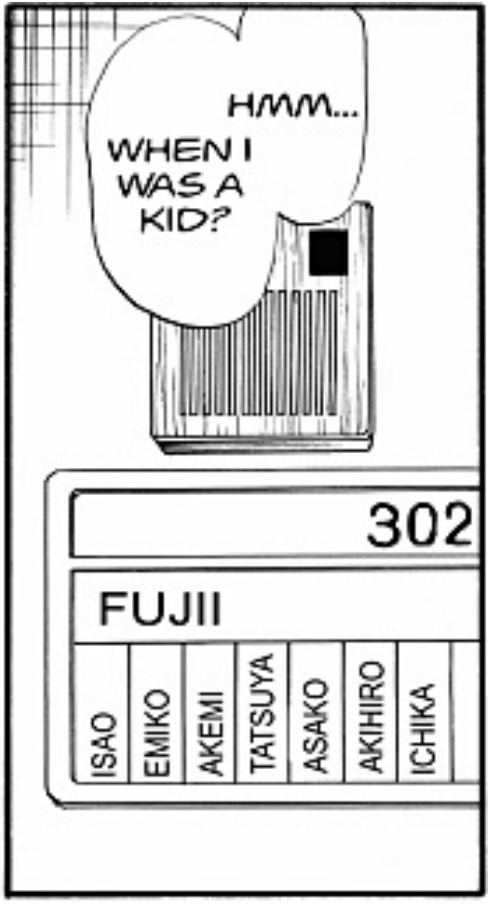
This was my reaction when I looked at the manuscript recently.

This is the piece I worked on non-stop until the day I left for Tokyo. I had to leave home at 6:00 a.m. and I worked on it until 2:00 a.m.

When I look at it now, I realize how bad it is. The people and backgrounds are bad. I drew the lines around the panels with a G pen with a worn tip.

High-quality paper? What's that? I was so ignorant. I didn't even have the money to buy screentone. You can tell all that at a glance. And what's more, what's Aki wearing at the end? A t-tulip?! What a laugh! There was no way to make any corrections. Sigh... Please read this and gain a little confidence, everyone. How embarrassing!


SO STUDYING WAS FUN FOR ME.
IT WASN'T EASY FOR MY FAMILY TO SEND ME TO SCHOOL...
WE WERE POOR.
FATHER ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR



GREAT!
ACTUALLY, THAT WAS MY NICKNAME.
KLAP KLAP

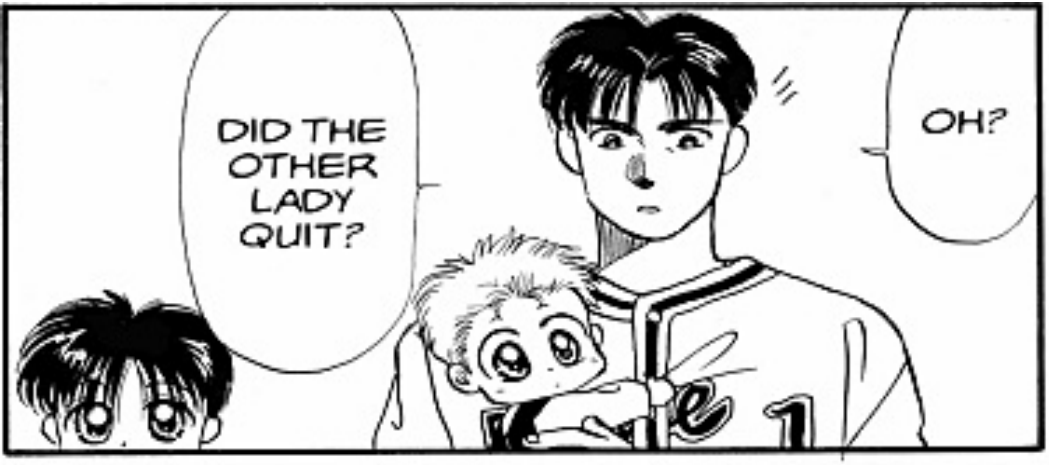
YOU WERE A BOOKWORM?!
NO, NO...
I PREFERRED TO STAY HOME AND READ.

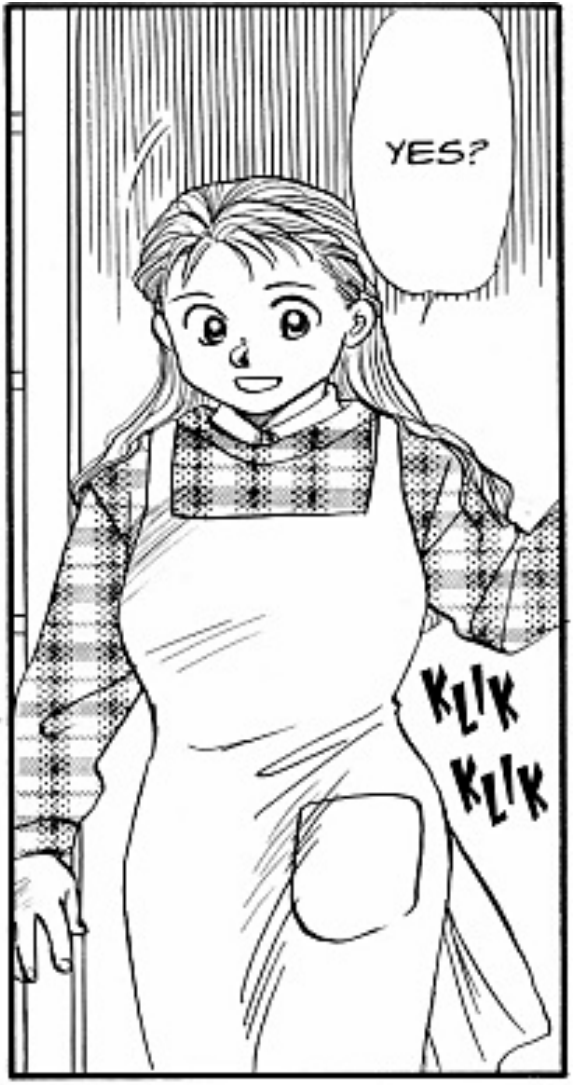
MATSUY
HELLO!
THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
AHH...

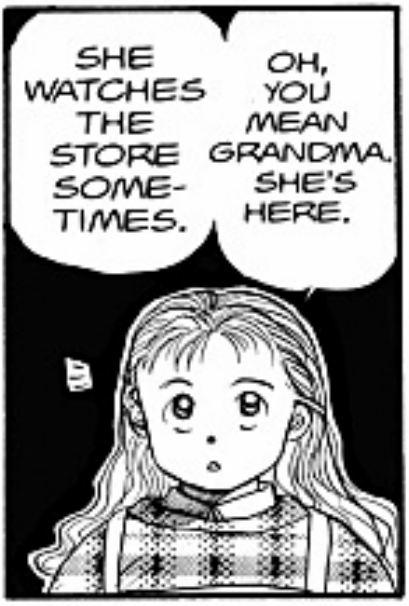
CHIRP CHIRP

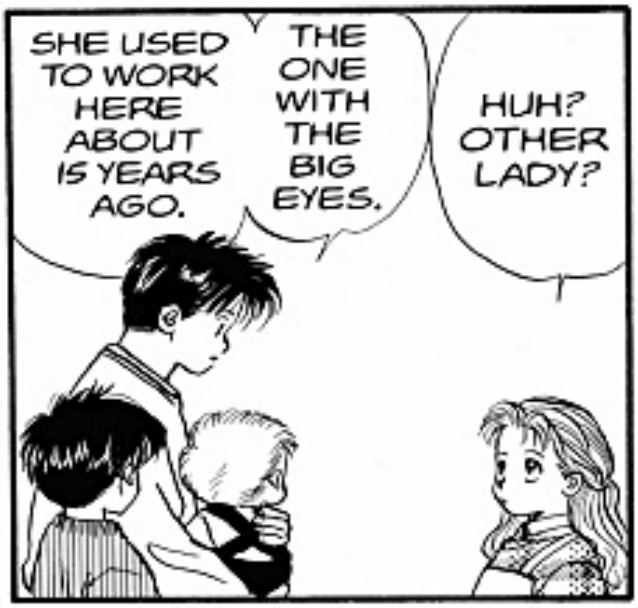
AHA!
IT'S STILL THERE.

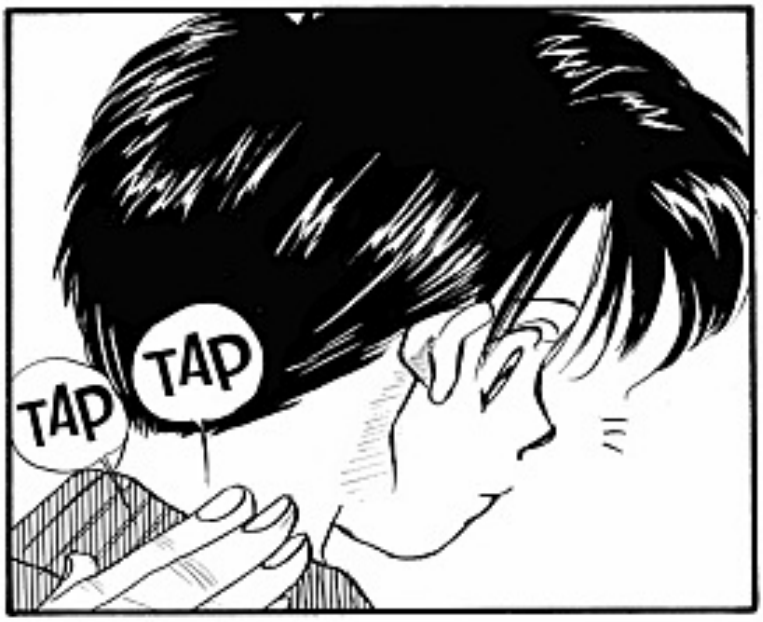
THAT'S IT.
THAT'S THE SHOP?


DID THE OTHER LADY QUIT?
OH?


YES?
KLK KLK

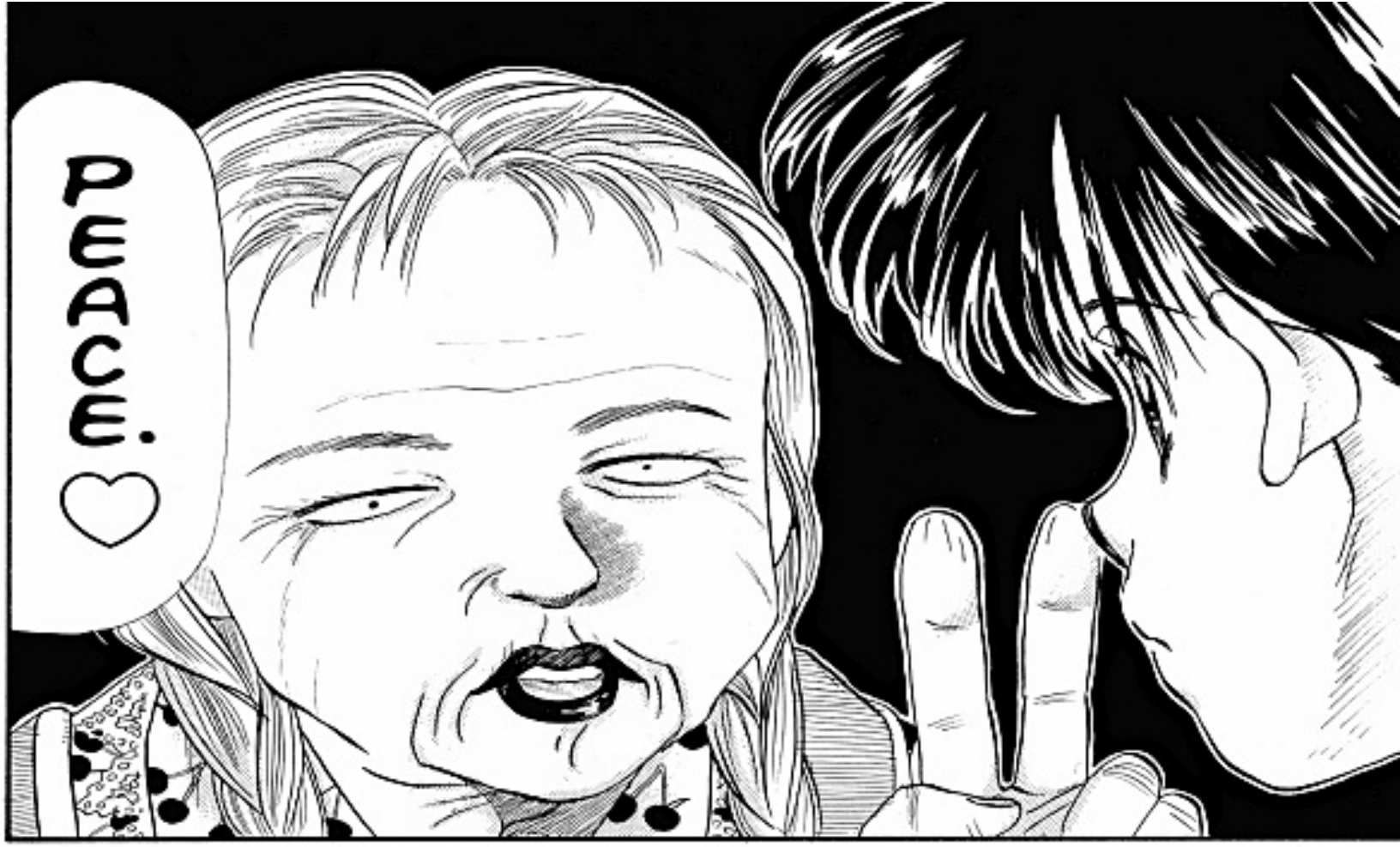

SHE WATCHES THE STORE SOME-TIMES.
OH, YOU MEAN GRANDMA. SHE'S HERE.


SHE USED TO WORK HERE ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO.
THE ONE WITH THE BIG EYES.
HUH? OTHER LADY?

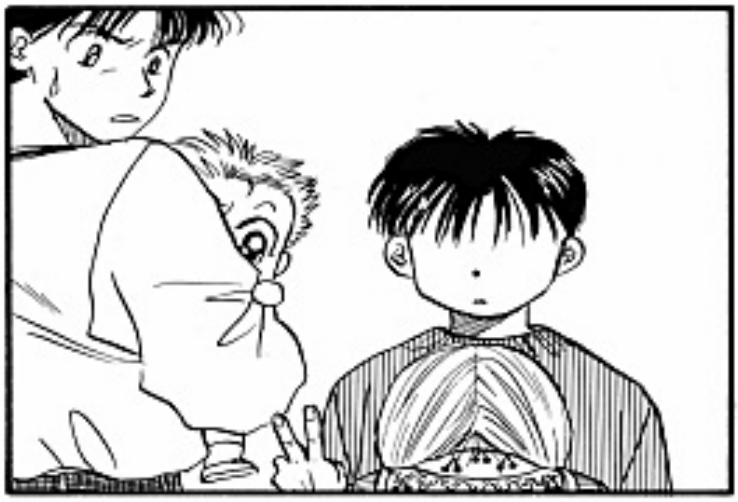

TAP
TAP

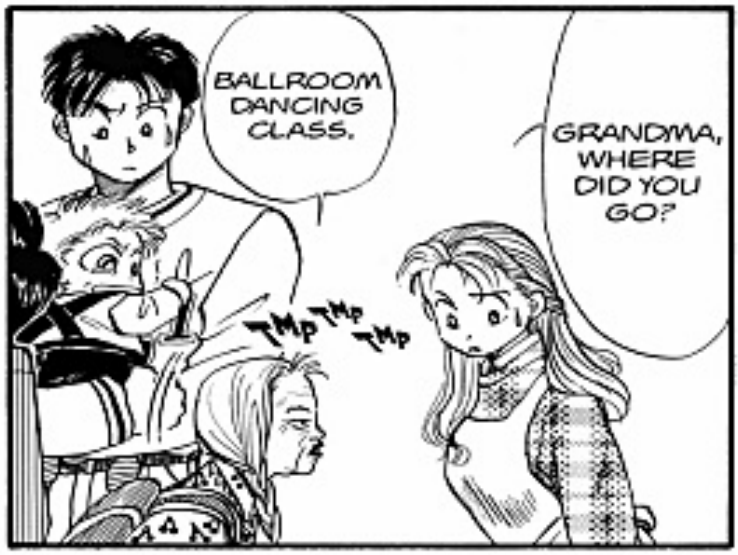
?
WiP

HAS IT BEEN THAT LONG?
YOU ARE?
I'M HER GRAND-DAUGHTER.

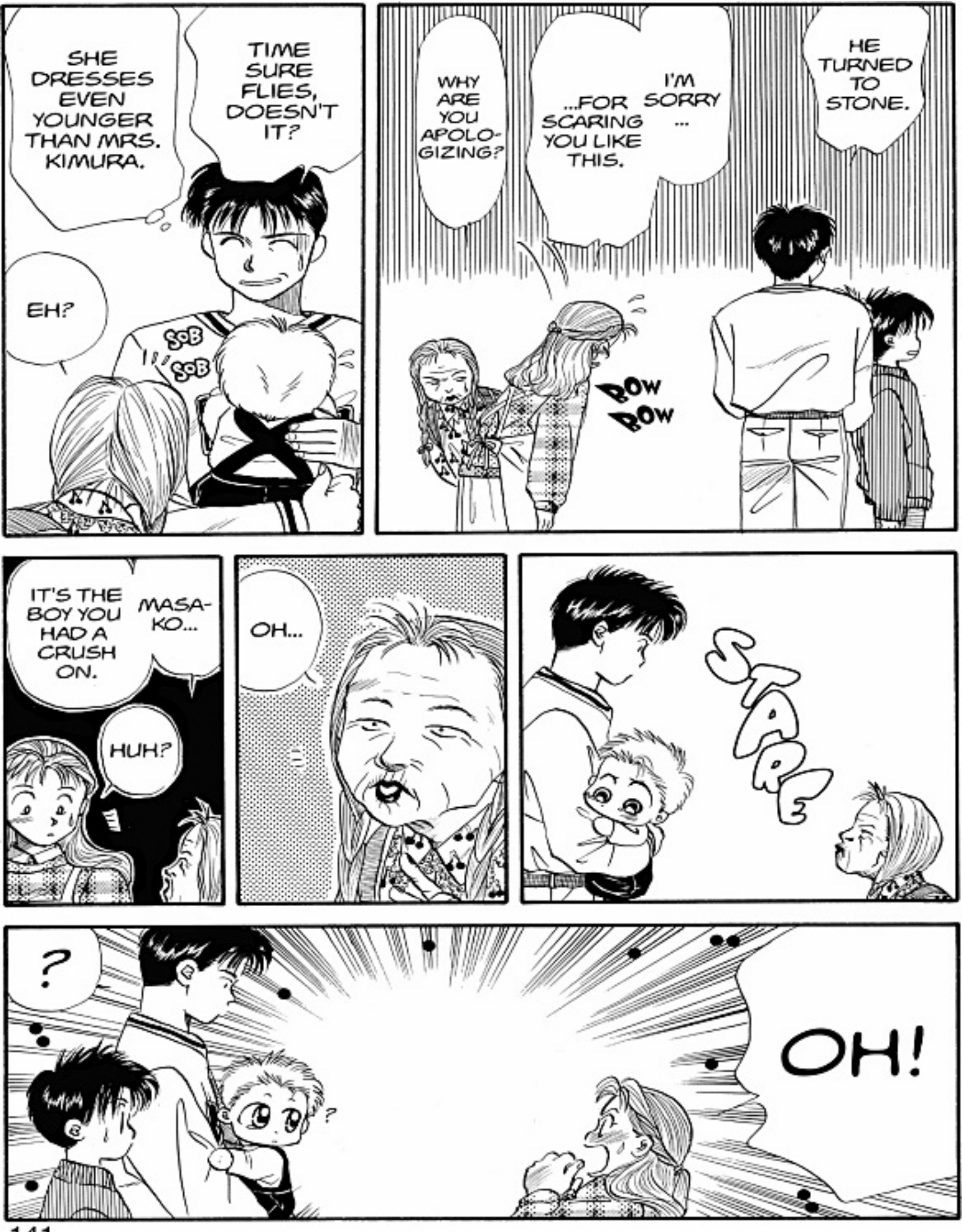

PEACE.

OGRE GWANNY!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS CHILD?




BALLROOM DANCING CLASS.
GRANDMA, WHERE DID YOU GO?
TMP TMP TMP

TAKUYA?


SHE DRESSES EVEN YOUNGER THAN MRS. KIMURA.
TIME SURE FLIES, DOESN'T IT?
EH?
SOB
SOB
HE TURNED TO STONE.
I'M SORRY ...
...FOR SCARING YOU LIKE THIS.
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
BOW
BOW
IT'S THE BOY YOU HAD A CRUSH ON.
MASAKO...
HUH?
OH...
STARE
?
OH!

WHEN HE WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, HE USED TO PLAY HOOKY AND COME HERE.
HE WAS A RASCAL BACK THEN...
HEH HEH HEH
HE DID?
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU.
AND YOU'RE HIS SON!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?
THANK YOU.
HOW NICE.
YOU'VE GROWN INTO A FINE-LOOKING MAN.
OH YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT...
WHY ARE YOU HERE TODAY?
WELL?
SIGH
CARROT
CARROT
CARROT
I REMEMBER IT ALL VERY WELL. THAT WAS 20 YEARS AGO...
HARUMI AT 14
AHHH
ACTUALLY, HE WASN'T QUITE SO HEROIC LOOKING, BUT THIS IS HOW SHE REMEMBERS HIM.

OH...
OH...
...
BA-BUMP
WHAT?
BA-BUMP
MINORU
BUY SOME BABY STARS.
DAD!
BABY STARS!
THAT'S NO EXCUSE.
OKAY.
WOULD YOU ADD THIS, PLEASE.
THEY SHOULDN'T BE OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THAT.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
OH...
MINORU'S EATING IT.
OH!
HUH?
POP
MUNCH
MUNCH
THAT RICE CANDY MINORU IS EATING COST 10 YEN.
WHEN I WAS A KID, 30 YEN WAS A LOT OF MONEY.

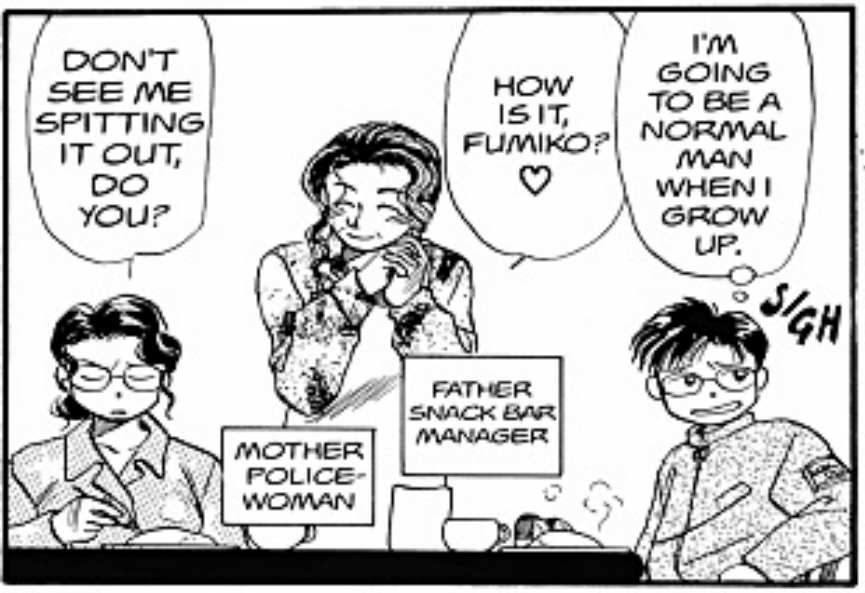
POWDERED JUICE. IN SUMMER I'D BUY ALL THE DIFFERENT FLAVORS AND WHENEVER I GOT THIRSTY I'D MAKE SOME TO DRINK.
IT WAS REALLY GOOD.
PINEAPPLE
GRAPE
WHEN YOU OPENED THE LID, YOU COULD SEE IF YOU'D WON A PRIZE.
ONCE I WON SIX TIMES IN A ROW.
WOW.
SKRIK SKRIK
I USED TO BUY THIS ALL THE TIME.
MARBLE GUM.
MARUKAWA GRAPE BUBBLE GUM
MARUKAWA GRAPE BUBBLE GUM
MARUKAWA BUBBLE GUM
ORANGE GUM
ORION'S COCOA CIGARETTES
20 PCS.
COCOA CIGAR-ETTES...
THERE'S COLA FLAVOR, TOO.
CHERRY CANDY...
THERE'S GREEN APPLE, TOO.
CANDY CONES
CANDY CONES ...
OH.
SORRY.
UM, DAD?
OH...!
MILLET-RICE CAKES AND GELATIN.
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP

IT WAS HARD TO GET IT ALL OUT OF THE CONTAINER.
YOU USE THIS LITTLE SPOON TO EAT IT.
...THIS YOGURT STUFF, TOO.
I USED TO EAT...
...WHAT ABOUT GAMES?
YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT THE CANDY, BUT...
YEAH.
DID YOU GET IT?
SO YOU'D HAVE TO GET THE LAST BIT WITH YOUR FINGER.
HERE WE GO...
MINORU
KIDS STILL BUY THEM FROM TIME TO TIME.
SURE DO.
KLAK
DO YOU HAVE ANY?
NOT BOTTLE CAPS?

WHAT'S THIS?
HOW DO YOU USE IT?
BUBBA FIVE!
HERE YOU GO.
THE WASHING MACHINE ATTACK SQUAD BUBBLE FIVE!!
TO-GETH-ER, WE ARE —
WASHING MACHINE ATTACK SQUAD
BUBBLE FIVE
...
YOU'RE GOING TO BUY THAT, RIGHT?
GET IT?
OH...
...YOU BEND IT BACK AND FORTH TO SOFTEN IT. THAT MAKES IT MUCH STRONGER THAN A NEW ONE.
IN ORDER TO KEEP YOURS FROM GETTING FLIPPED ...
YOU COULD RUB WAX ON IT OR TAPE IT UP, TOO.
BEND
BEND
IF YOUR CAP FLIPS YOUR OPPON-ENT'S, YOU WIN.
WHAM
F'W'P

BUT I RE-MEMBER GUAM.
I WAS ONLY TWO WHEN WE WENT TO HAWAII, SO I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.
HMM... WELL...
WHEN I WAS A LAD?
TAMOATE
AW WELL...
HA HA HA
NOT MANY PEOPLE HAD...
...SUCH A PRIVILEGED CHILDHOOD!
IN LOS ANGELES I MADE A GOOD FRIEND. HIS NAME WAS MICHAEL.
...AND SPAIN WAS NICE, TOO.
SWITZER-LAND WAS WONDER-FUL...
THIS IS GREAT, DAD!
103
WELL...
WHEN I WAS A KID...
SSS

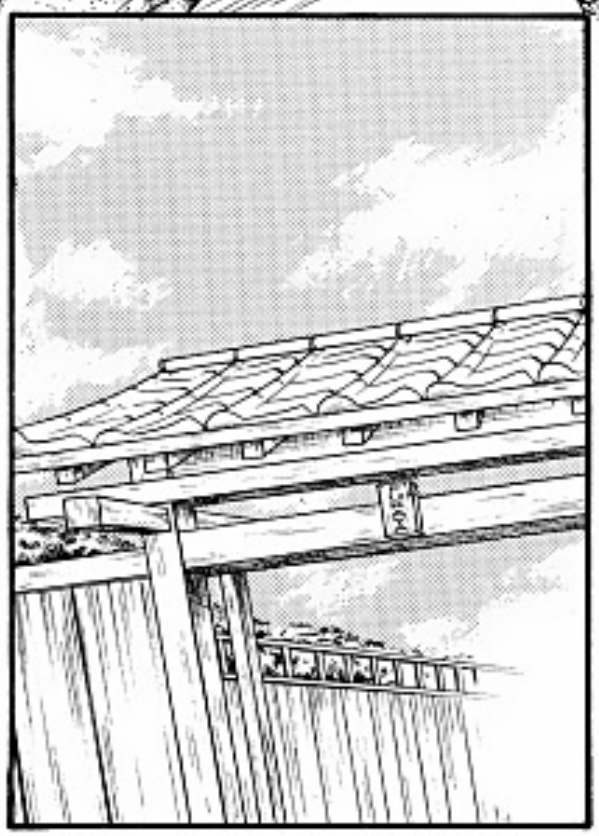
MY SISTERS USED TO DRESS ME UP IN DIFFERENT OUTFITS.


DON'T SEE ME SPITTING IT OUT, DO YOU?
HOW IS IT, FUMIKO? ♡
I'M GOING TO BE A NORMAL MAN WHEN I GROW UP.
SIGH
MOTHER POLICE-WOMAN
FATHER SNACK BAR MANAGER

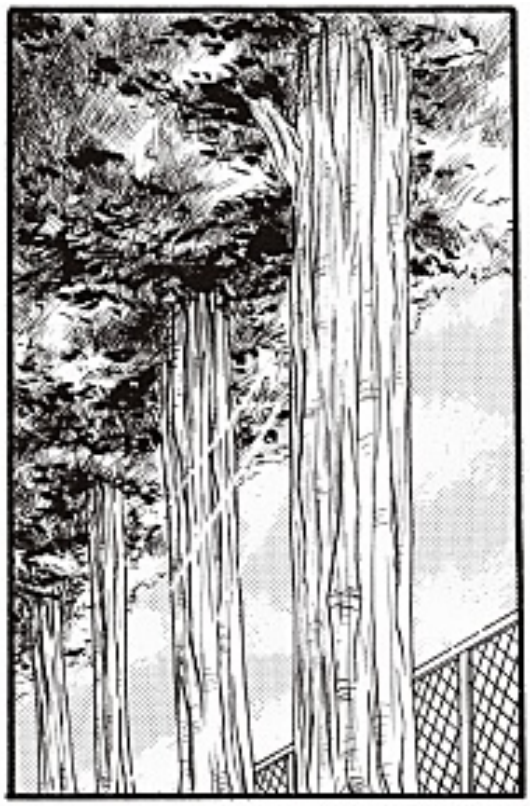
...PLAYED DOCTOR A LOT.
...WE...
SSS

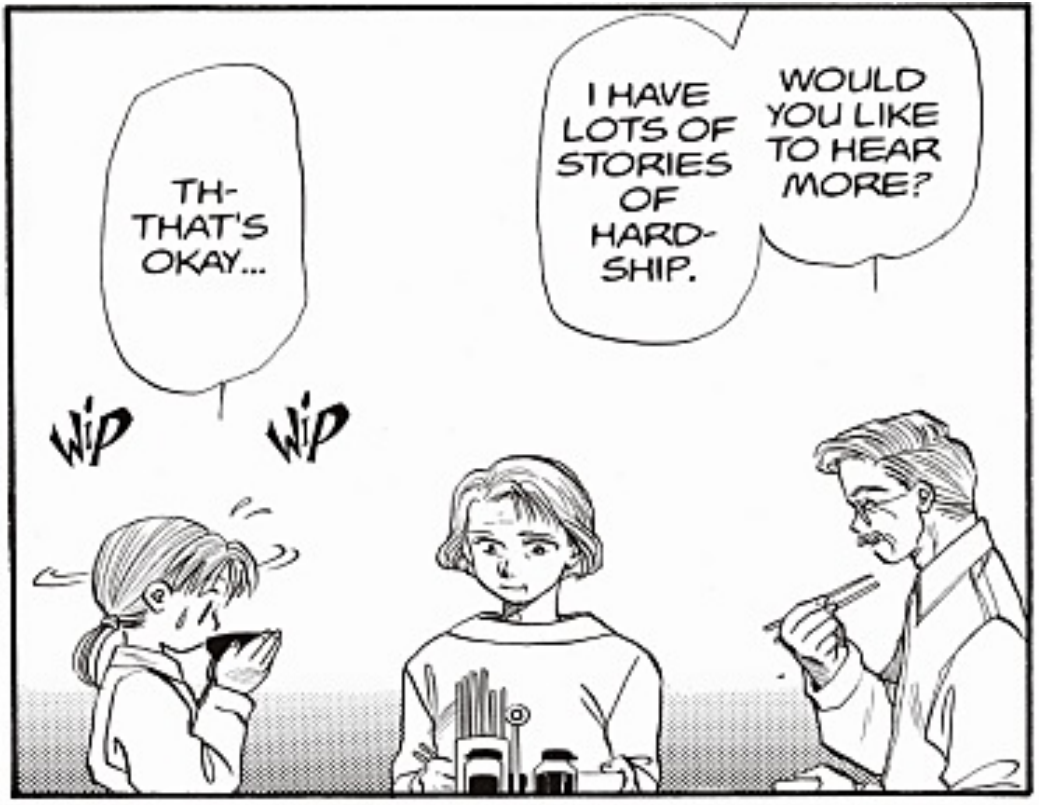
TIMES WERE HARD BACK THEN. WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO EAT AND WE DIDN'T GET TO PLAY VERY MUCH EITHER.
I STOLE CUCUM-BERS AND RADISHES FROM PEOPLE'S GARDENS.
HARD? HOW?

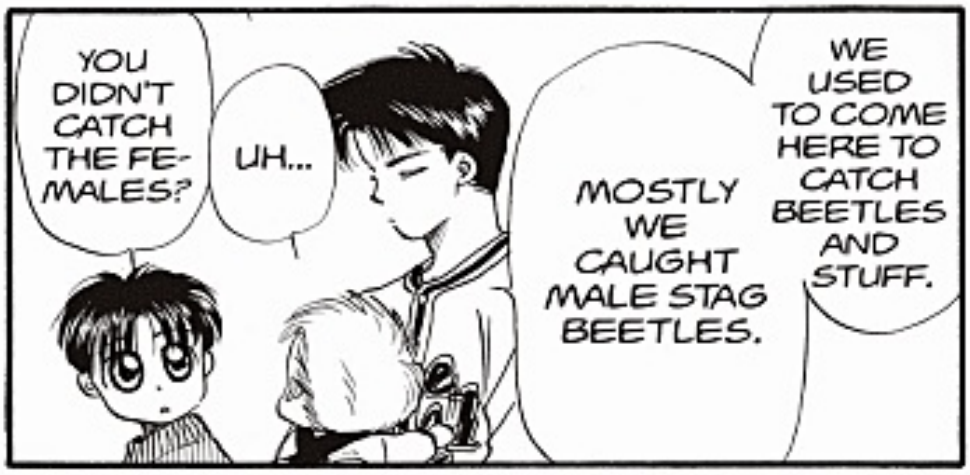
HUH?
WHEN I WAS A BOY?



MY FATHER WAS SENT OFF TO WAR.
AND MY MOTHER WASN'T WELL.
CREE
CREE
I WORKED THE FIELDS WITH MY LITTLE SISTER STRAPPED TO MY BACK.
WAAH WAAH
DRWW
CHAK
HUFF
TO THIS DAY, WHEN I HEAR THE DRONING OF CICADAS...
...I THINK OF THOSE TIMES.
DRWW
DRWW

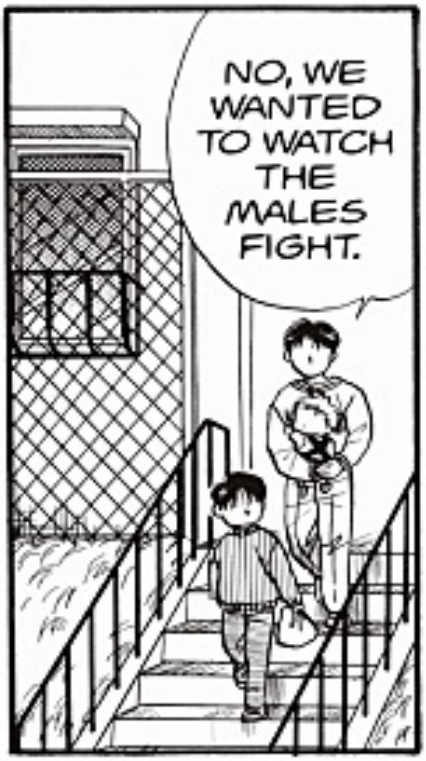



TH-THAT'S OKAY...
WIP
WIP
I HAVE LOTS OF STORIES OF HARD-SHIP.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR MORE?

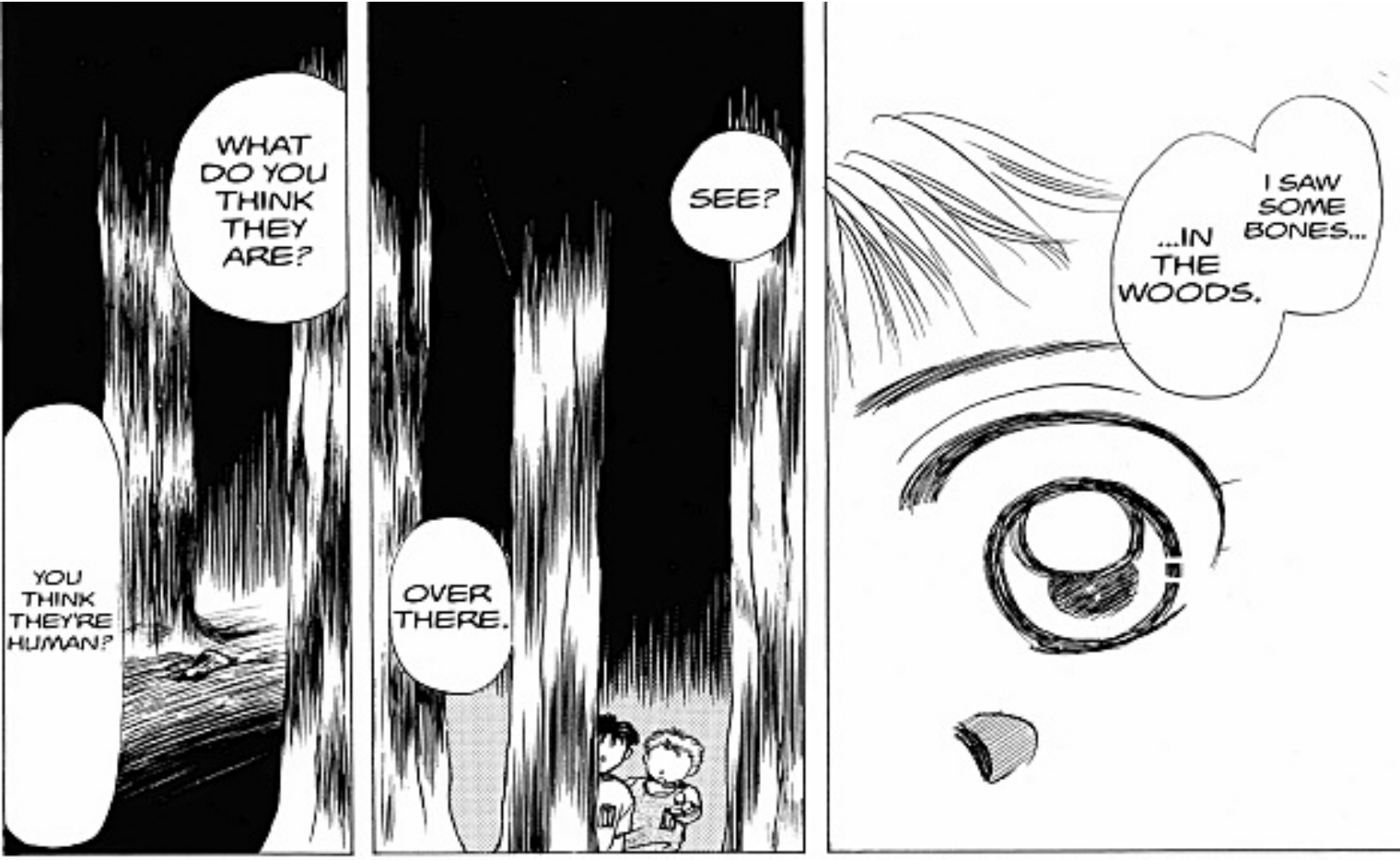

YOU DIDN'T CATCH THE FE-MALES?
UH...
MOSTLY WE CAUGHT MALE STAG BEETLES.
WE USED TO COME HERE TO CATCH BEETLES AND STUFF.

IN THOSE DAYS, THIS WHOLE AREA WAS FORESTED.

...
HA HA HA


NO, WE WANTED TO WATCH THE MALES FIGHT.

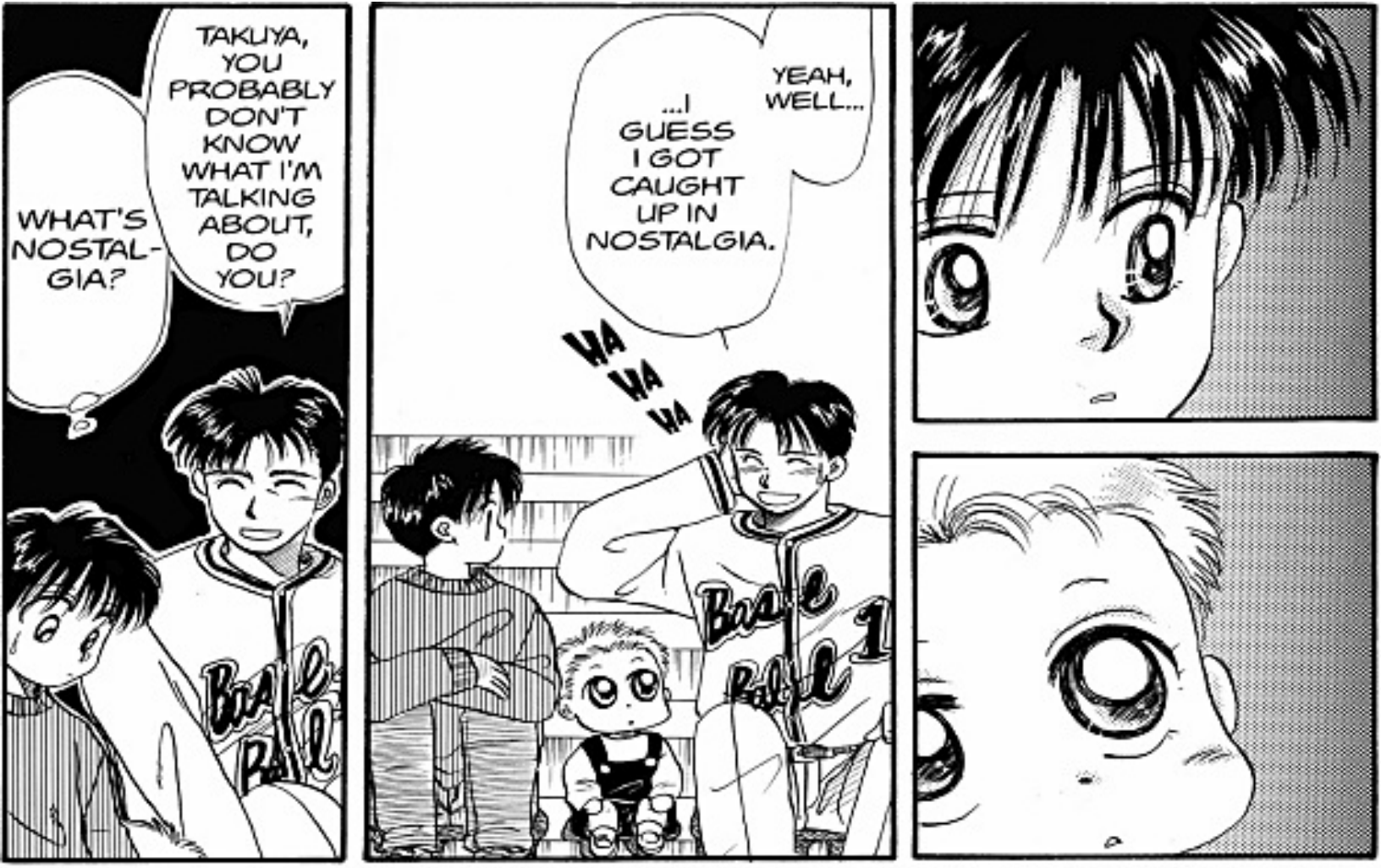
WOW ...
LOCUSTS.
KRORK KRORK
REEEEEEE
A HUGE FROG IS STICKING HIS HEAD UP.
KRORK KRORK
LOOK OVER THERE.
HA HA HA
KRORK
KRORK
THIS IS OUR SECRET, OKAY?
OKAY.
KAW KAW
ORANGE SOX
I SEE YOU, HIROSHI!

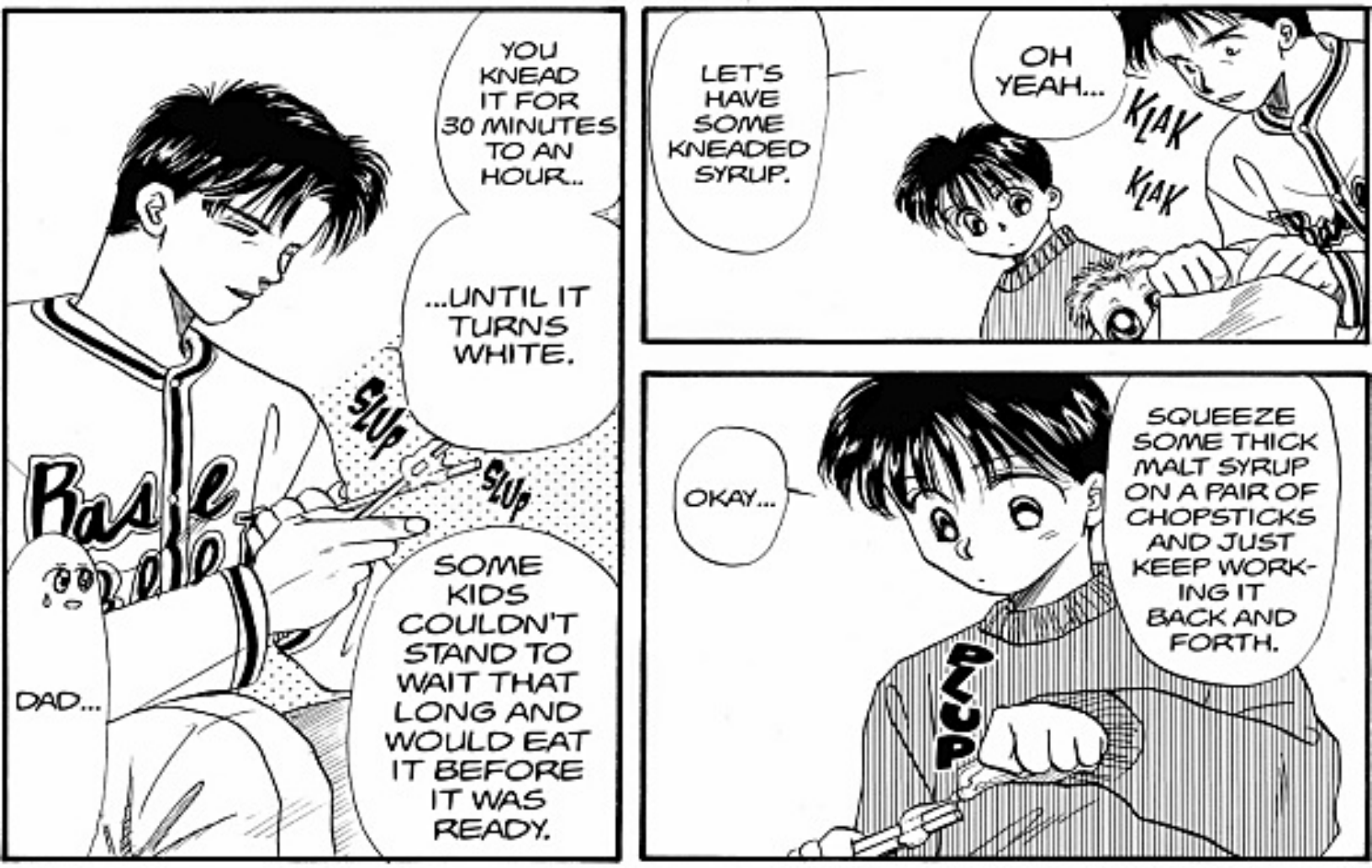

WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY ARE?
YOU THINK THEY'RE HUMAN?
SEE?
OVER THERE.
I SAW SOME BONES...
...IN THE WOODS.

...YOU DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER.
BUT WHEN YOU'RE LITTLE...

LOOKING BACK NOW...
LET'S GO.
COME ON.
O-OKAY...
...IT WAS PROBABLY A STRAY DOG OR CAT.

EVERYTHING IS A WONDER.


TAKUYA, YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, DO YOU?
WHAT'S NOSTAL-GIA?
YEAH, WELL...
...I GUESS I GOT CAUGHT UP IN NOSTALGIA.
HA HA HA


YOU KNEAD IT FOR 30 MINUTES TO AN HOUR..
...UNTIL IT TURNS WHITE.
SLUP
SLUP
SOME KIDS COULDN'T STAND TO WAIT THAT LONG AND WOULD EAT IT BEFORE IT WAS READY.
DAD...
LET'S HAVE SOME KNEADED SYRUP.
OH YEAH...
KIAK
KIAK
OKAY...
SQUEEZE SOME THICK MALT SYRUP ON A PAIR OF CHOPSTICKS AND JUST KEEP WORK-ING IT BACK AND FORTH.
PLUP

TAKUYA...
YEAH?
MINORU'S EATING IT ALREADY.
HUH?
MUNCH MUNCH
EVEN IF...
...YOU GO THROUGH CHILDHOOD WITHOUT PAYING MUCH ATTENTION TO ANY-THING...
IT'S WEIRD...
TO ME, THE TV SHOWS WERE BETTER IN THE OLD DAYS...
...BUT YEARS FROM NOW, YOU'LL PROBABLY FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT THE SHOWS YOU WATCH NOW.
...IN ABOUT TEN YEARS...
...YOU'LL STILL REMEMBER ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
LIKE HOW LITTLE MINORU USED TO BE.

I'M NOT SURE...
...WHAT DAD'S GETTING AT, BUT...
OH.
...I WONDER IF I'LL FEEL LIKE HE DOES WHEN I GET TO BE HIS AGE.
HEY!

HUH?
ME TOO!
TUG TUG
I THINK SO.
CAN I EAT IT NOW?
LOOK! IT'S WHITE.
WHEN I GROW UP...
YOU CAN HAVE HALF OF MINE.
HERE YOU GO, MINORU.
YAY!
YEAH.
I WONDER WHAT STORIES YOUR CLASSMATES WILL HAVE TO TELL.
YEAH.
...I HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT THE OLD TIMES LIKE THIS.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP

THEN CAME MONDAY.

...AND WORK ON THE RESEARCH PROJECT YOU STARTED LAST WEEK.
I'D LIKE YOU TO BREAK INTO YOUR GROUPS...

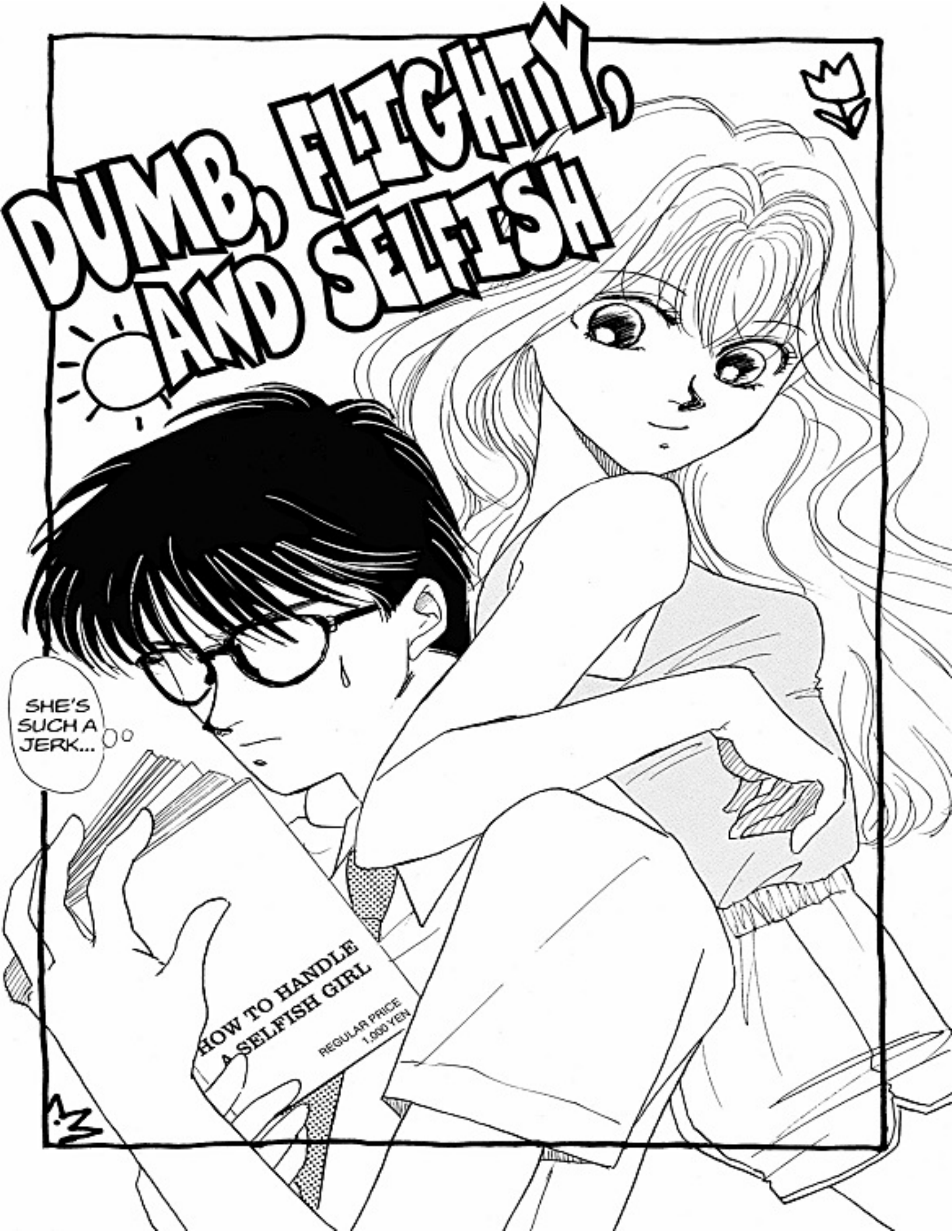
HE TRAVELED THE WORLD AND HAD A GOOD FRIEND IN LOS ANGELES NAMED MICHAEL.
THE END.

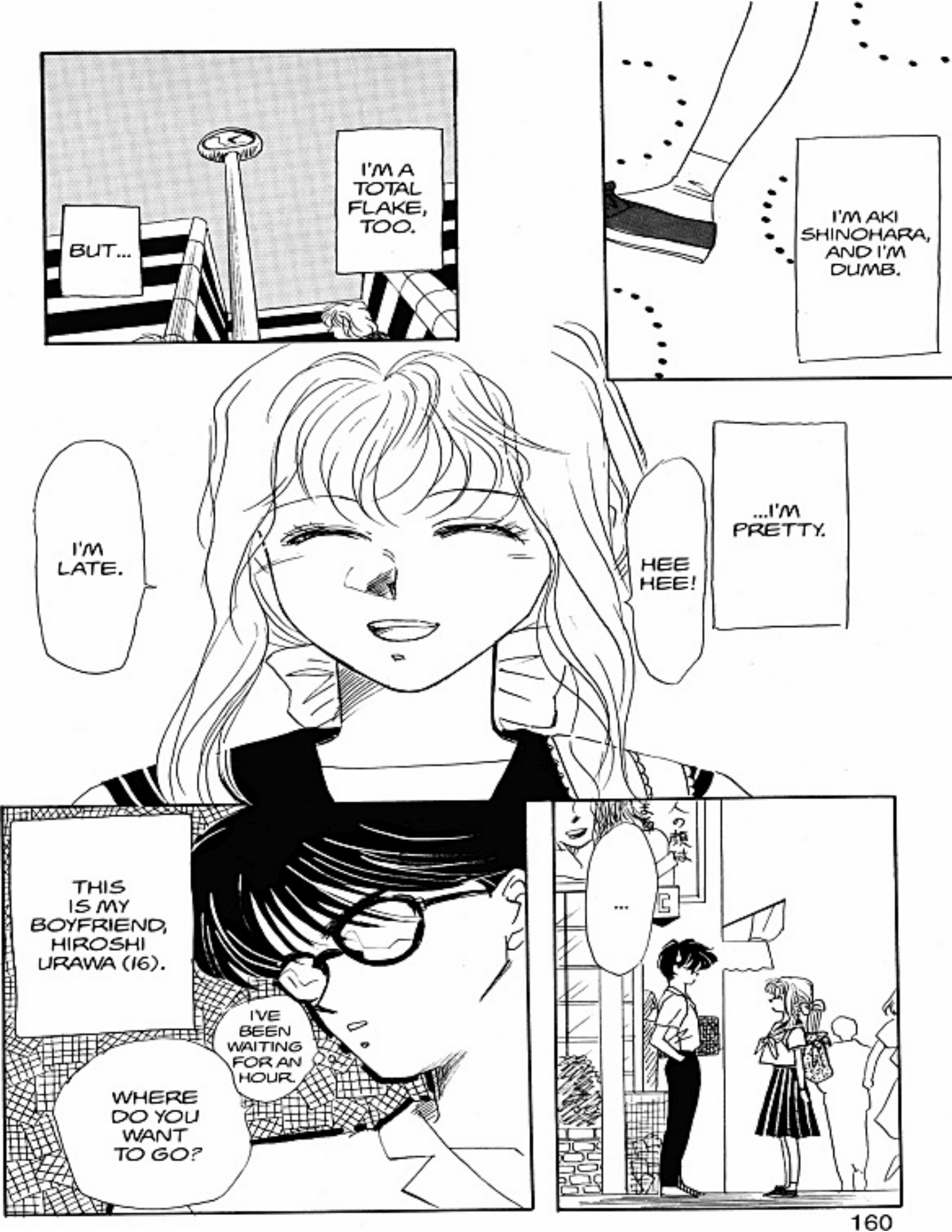
HE PLAYED DOCTOR AND HIS SISTERS DRESSED HIM UP.
THE END.

WHEN MY DAD WAS A KID, HIS PLAYMATES WERE HIS BOOKS.
THE END.

...
THE END.
HE ENJOYED SINGING RAUNCHY SONGS.
THE END.
HE STOLE VEGETABLES FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S GARDENS AND WORKED IN THE FIELDS WITH HIS LITTLE SISTER TIED TO HIS BACK AND NEVER GOT TO PLAY.
I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE.
HMM...
HOW SO... ARE WE SUPPOSED TO TIE IT ALL TO-GETHER?

CHAPTER 32/THE END


DUMB, FLIGHTY, AND SELFISH
SHE'S SUCH A JERK...
HOW TO HANDLE A SELFISH GIRL
REGULAR PRICE 1,000 YEN


I'M AKI SHINOHARA, AND I'M DUMB.
I'M A TOTAL FLAKE, TOO.
BUT...
...I'M PRETTY.
HEE HEE!
I'M LATE.
...
THIS IS MY BOYFRIEND, HIROSHI URAWA (16).
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AN HOUR.
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

AS WE WERE LEAVING SCHOOL, TAKAKO TOOK OUT A BOX OF POCKY AND INVITED ME TO EAT IT WITH HER.
I'LL TELL YOU.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME WHY I'M LATE?
HIROSHI IS A BORING NERD.
YOU WANT ME TO?
EVEN HIS NAME IS BORING.
TAKAKO?
SHE'S MY FRIEND.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THAT IS.
HE'S SUCH A GEEK!
?
CRACK
AKI...
REALLY? I DON'T THINK I BUY THAT.
BUT I HURRIED TO GET HERE AFTER THAT.
SO YOU CHOSE POCKY OVER ME?
IT TOOK HER AN HOUR TO EAT IT?
...
...DID I EVER AGREE TO MEET HIM?
WHY...

OH.
UM...I GUESS.
...IS JUST WHAT A DUMB GIRL LIKE YOU NEEDS.
SOMEONE LIKE ME...
HMPH
HEY, YOU CALLED ME DUMB!
HE'S SUCH A DORK.
THAT'S WHAT I WANT!
SPAGHETTI WITH CODFISH ROE! SPAGHETTI WITH CODFISH ROE!
OKAY, OKAY.
I WANT SPAGHETTI WITH CODFISH ROE.
JUST LIKE THAT, HUH? BUT WHY WOULD THAT SURPRISE ME?
HUH?
HIRO-SHI!
WHAP

EAT IT!
LISTEN ...
YOU EAT IT, HIROSHI.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN EAT HALF OF IT.
WHAM
I DON'T WANT ANY MORE.
I'M TIRED OF THIS.
OUT OF THE BLUE.
YOU'VE BEEN GOING WITH HIM SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL, HAVEN'T YOU?
I WANT A COOL BOYFRIEND.
WHO DOES SHE THINK IS PAYING FOR THIS?
THIS GIRL... SHE GOT TIRED OF IT IN THE FIRST PANEL.
BUT I'M IMPRESS-ED...
...THAT HE'S BEEN ABLE TO PUT UP WITH YOU FOR SO LONG.
WE'RE JUST COASTING ON MOMENTUM.
YOUR TROUBLE IS THAT YOU SWITCH BOYS TOO OFTEN, TAKAKO.
I HAVE TO GIVE YOU CREDIT.
I'M AMAZED YOU'RE STILL WITH THE SAME GUY.

ONE OF THESE DAYS A GIRL WILL COME ALONG AND MAKE YOU CRY.
SHE SURE HAS A HIGH OPINION OF HERSELF.
TO-TALLY.
HE'S CRAZY ABOUT ME.
I'D NEVER CRY.
HMPH...
HUH? WELL...
YOU'D LAUGH? WHY?
I'D LAUGH IF THAT HAPPENED.
NO GIRL WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
YACK
SKREECH
PUBLIC POOL
TICKET WINDOW
YACK
YACK
BUT THAT'LL NEVER HAPPEN.
THAT'S WHAT THEY THINK.

HMM...
...
HA HA HA HA
YOU'RE A TOTAL NERD, HIROSHI.
TONK
NO, I'M NOT.
TWEEK
YES, YOU ARE!!
NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
NO.
OH? ARE YOU MAD?
HEY!
AAAAH
SWAK
HOW FAR ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW ME?
THIS IS THE MEN'S CHANGING ROOM.

WHUP
DOOM
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
SWIP
IT'S ABSURD...
WHY'D SHE HIT ME?
IT'S ABOUT FIVE FEET DEEP, RIGHT?
YACK
WHEE WHEE
YACK
TWEE
MOMMY..
THE ADULT POOL IS PRETTY EMPTY. THAT'S GOOD.
SHE'S HEAVY.
HUH?
LISTEN, YOU...
HUH? WHY NOT?
NEVER MIND. I'M NOT GOING IN.
I'LL HOLD YOU UP.
WHEN I GO IN THE WATER COMES TO ABOUT HERE.
WHEN I'M ON MY TOES.
SHORTY
LET'S HAVE SOME UDON NOODLES FOR LUNCH.
HEY...
IT'S NOTHING.
I WANT A PIGGYBACK RIDE, TOO.

WHY CAN'T YOU GET IT WET?
PERMED?
...SO I DON'T WANT TO GET IT WET.
I HAD MY HAIR PERMED...
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO GO SWIMMING!
I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND WATCH YOU. GO ON AND SWIM.
GEEZ!
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!!
HERE'S A SWIMMING CAP.
TWOING
YOU'RE UNBELIEV-ABLE!
WHEN IT DRIES, IT'LL BE ALL FRIZZY.
HOW ABOUT SWIMMING WITH US?
TOMP
ARE YOU ALONE, MISS?
WOW! HE'S REALLY MAD.
HMPH! OKAY, I WILL!!
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SWIM NOW.
GO ON AND SWIM BY YOURSELF.

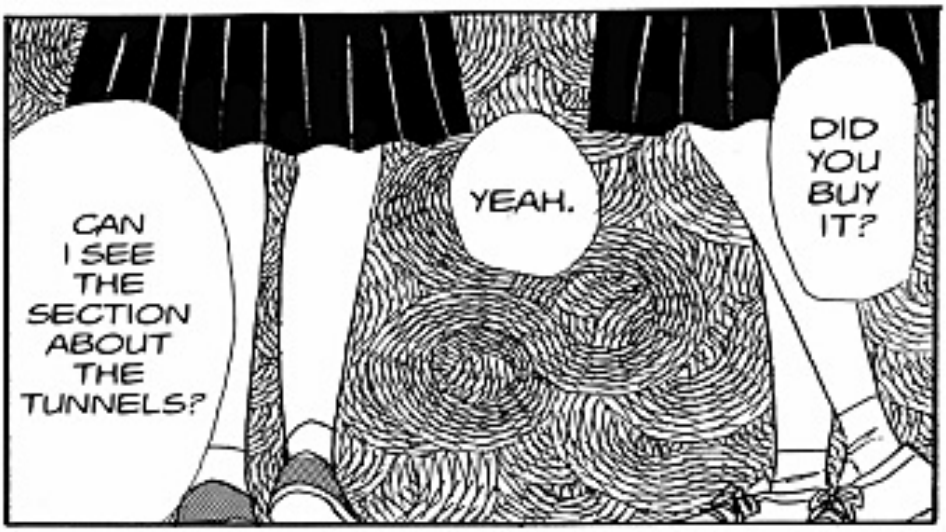
...AREN'T YOU GOING TO SWIM?
WELL...
THERE'S NO HURRY.
I WILL.
DAMN. SHE'S WITH A GUY.
YOU WANT A HOT-DOG?
AKI...
OKAY.
HMM...
YOU COME HERE TOO?
WHAT'S UP...
OH! HIROSHI...
THIS IS NO FUN...!
PLEFBT

...WITH THESE GIRLS?
WELL...
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THE SWIMMING TYPE.
SURE, WHY NOT?
LET'S SWIM.
I GUESS.
UM...
WHUP
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
HUH?
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
WUSP
HMM...
WUSP
WHAT'S HER PROB-LEM?
WHAT?
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO SWIM.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T GOING TO SWIM.
HEY.

SHE'S PRETTY.
I HATE HER.
...LIKE HER EYES...
I DON'T...
I CAN'T STAND HER. SHE ACTS SO SWEET AND INNOCENT.
I GUESS SHE'S PRETTY.
HER NAME'S ERIKA KAMI-SHIRO.
A LOT OF GUYS THINK SO, AT LEAST.
I THINK I'LL PUT MY HAIR UP TOO.
THE ONE WITH THE PONYTAIL.
THERE WERE THREE OF THEM.
THAT GIRL.
WHO?
THE PATTERN ON AKI'S SWIMSUIT MAKES ME DIZZY.
THERE.
WHAT A LOUSY JOB...
IS SHE YOUR TYPE?
I DUNNO.
I CAN'T TIE IT.
HERE, LET ME DO IT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

IF A GIRL FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU...

I'D LAUGH.



OH...
WHAT?
IT'S NOT SILLY.
BUYING ANOTHER SILLY MAGAZINE?
FWUP FWUP
OH, THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOME SERIOUS BOOK.
OH.
?
WELL ...
OGLE
OGLE
OGLE
HEY, IS THIS YOUR BOY-FRIEND, AKI?
SHE ACTS LIKE AN OLD LADY.
FIRST MEETING
SHE SEEMS SO MATURE.
HELLO ... ERIKA.
HELLO.
GENTEEL SOUNDING
SHE'S GOT POISE.

HE SEEMS ...
YEAH.
HE SEEMS KIND OF NERDY.
HI.
HI.
YEAH, HIS GEEK FACTOR'S PRETTY HIGH.
I HAD A FEELING THAT'S WHAT MY FRIENDS WOULD SAY WHEN THEY SAW HIM.
ISN'T HE?
I TRIED TO TELL YOU.
A-AM I?
HUH?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY CHANGING YOUR HAIR-STYLE?
NO, IT'S THE GLASSES.
ARE YOU BLIND?
20/800 AND 20/500.
WOW. THAT'S TERRIBLE.
YOU SHOULD DO YOUR HAIR LIKE THE GUYS ON TV.
WHAT EVER.
WAIT A MINUTE!!
WHY DON'T YOU GET CONTACT LENSES?

SO JUST SHUT YOUR MOUTHS!
YOU'RE SUCH JERKS! HIROSHI'S COOLER THAN ANY OF YOU!
HOW CAN YOU CALL HIM NERDY?
ERIKA?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
Y-YOU GIRLS ...
ERIKA?!
TOMP
WUZZ
ARE THEY FIGHTING?
WHAT?
WUZZ
BLUSH
I...
I'M SORRY...
ERIKA?
GASP

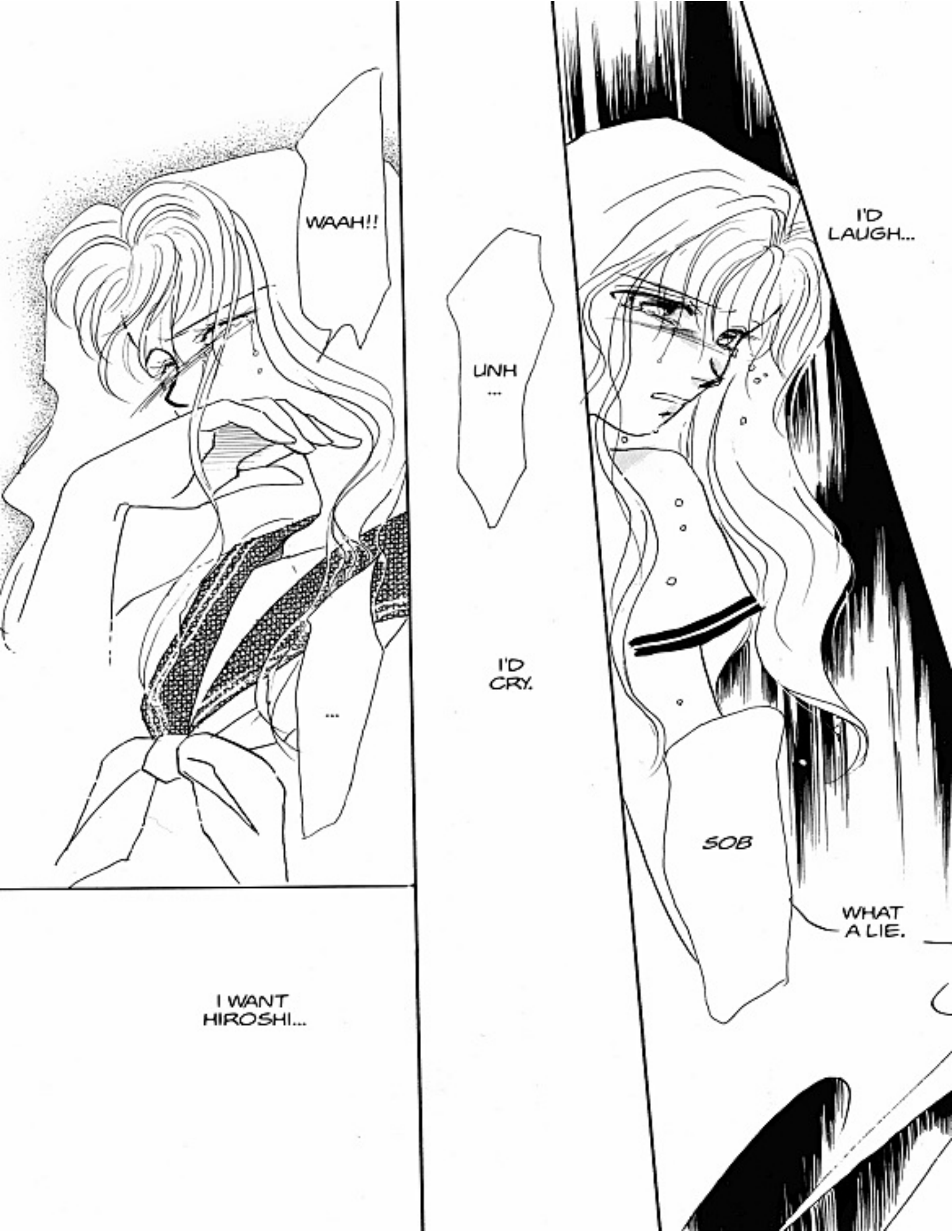
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM? HOW RUDE!
WHOOSH
WHOA. HE RAN AFTER HER.
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO ARE RUDE.
WHUMP
THUD
ERIKA!
SHE'S GOING TO STEAL HIROSHI AWAY.
SHE LOOKED PRETTY UPSET.
OH...
OH WELL, WHAT'S A BOY OR TWO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT...
EVEN AKI...
THEY JUST MAKE ME SO MAD.
HERE.
...
YES. I'M SORRY.
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN?

ERIKA, IS YOUR VISION OKAY?
WONDERFUL?
I THINK YOU'RE WONDER-FUL.
NO, IT'S NOT!
WELL, IT'S ONLY THE TRUTH.
I'VE LIKED YOU...
...FOR A LONG TIME.
I...
I LIKE YOU, HIROSHI.
I'D LAUGH...
THE OTHER DAY...

I HATE HER.
IS THAT THE TRUTH?
HMM ...
NOTHING HAPPENED...
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND ERIKA?
GRR
WHAM
DON'T TALK BAD ABOUT ERIKA.
DON'T DO THAT.
I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE LIKE HER.
SHE'S SO PRIM AND SELF-RIGHT-EOUS.
ARE YOU DEFENDING HER?

I...
I'M GOING TO MEET A GUY. TAKAKO IS INTRO-DUCING US.
ARE YOU CRAZY?
WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?
DO YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON HER?!
WHY? WHAT AM I TO YOU?
WHY NOT?
NO, YOU'RE NOT!
STOP TAKING ME FOR GRANTED!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
SPLASH
I DON'T CARE...
...WHAT YOU THINK!!

OH YEAH.
YOUR PERM...
IT'S COLD...
I...
I HATE IT WHEN YOU ACT LIKE THIS.
SHHHK
THANK YOU.


WAAH!!
...
I WANT HIROSHI...
UNH ...
I'D CRY.
I'D LAUGH...
SOB
WHAT A LIE.

I DIDN'T HAVE TO GET SO MAD.
I'M GOING TO MEET A GUY.
I DON'T WANT SOME HAND-SOME GUY.
I JUST WANT HIROSHI!!
AKI...
THE GUYS ON TV?
SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ABOUT TO CRY.

HE LEFT ME.
WHY'D YOU DO IT?!
HUH?
HER HAIR'S JUST LIKE MINE.
THIS GIRL...
YOU CHOPPED IT OFF!
HE LEFT ME.
YEAH! WHY DON'T WE MEET AT 10:00 AT PARLOR MOM?
SHOP-PING?
WAH
BOMP
WAH
BOMP
WHY DON'T WE GO SHOPPING ON SUNDAY?
AKI...
SMILE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WAS IT OUR FAULT?
OH NO...

WHAT'LL I DO?
DO YOU KNOW...
I WONDER IF HE AND ERIKA ARE HAVING FUN TOGETHER...
WHAT'LL I DO?
HIROSHI...
GO SEE HIM.
WRITE A LETTER.
CALL HIM.
AKI?
ERIKA...
YIKES...
HOLD ON.
I WONDER IF HE'S HOME.
OF COURSE. I SNEAKED A PEAK AT AKI'S ADDRESS BOOK.
...HIS PHONE NUMBER?
KLAK
BEE-BEE-BEEP
KLAK
BEE-BEE-BEEP
OH...
MAY I SPEAK TO HIROSHI, PLEASE?
IS THIS THE URAWA RESIDENCE?

THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO TELL YOU.
UM, YEAH.
OH, THIS?
THWAP
WHAT HAPPENED? WHY'D YOU CUT YOUR HAIR?
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
OH...
...THEY'VE BROKEN UP.
ACTUALLY, I COULD TELL.
WHEN I SAW YOU TWO, I THOUGHT ...
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?

I'M SORRY.
IT'S SO SAD.
I TOLD HIM HOW I FELT ABOUT HIM, BUT HE JUST SAID HE WAS SORRY.
WHAT?!
AND HIROSHI...
HUH?
HI, HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING LONG?
HEH HEH
TAKAKO SENT YOU, RIGHT?!
WHO IS HE?!
SHE DIDN'T WARN ME!
HOW DO YOU DO? I'M IIZO DODEMO.
ARE YOU AKI SHINO-HARA?
HA HA HA
TAKAKO SENT YOU, DIDN'T SHE?
WHAT?
NO!!
WELL...I'D BETTER BE GOING...
ERIKA!
HURRYING AWAY
BOW BOW

SO HE FINALLY CAME.
WHO IS HE?
HE'S A WEIRDO WHO KEEPS PESTERING MY SISTER.
BUT HIROSHI ISN'T HERE YET.
WHAT'LL WE DO?
TMP
TMP
TMP
HUH?
?!
TUG
AKI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IT'S THE SAME OLD PATTERN.

H...
HIROSHI?
...WHEN I'M TRYING HARD NOT TO BE SUCH A NERD!!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE MEETING OTHER GUYS...
I'M...
...AKI?
...
I'M SORRY.
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
I'M SORRY.
WHUP

DUMB, FLIGHTY, AND SELFISH / THE END

BABY & ME

Creator: Marimo Ragawa

SBM Title: *Baby & Me*

Date of Birth: September 21

Blood Type: B

Major Works: *Time Limit*, *Baby & Me*, *N.Y. N.Y.*, and *Shanimuni-Go* (Desperately—Go)

Marimo Ragawa first started submitting manga to a comic magazine when she was 12 years old. She kept up her submissions for four years, but to no avail. She decided to submit her work to the magazine *Hana to Yume*, where she received Top Prize in the Monthly Manga Contest as well as an honorable mention (Kasaku) in the magazine's Big Challenge contest. Her first manga was titled *Time Limit*. *Baby & Me* was honored with a Shogakukan Manga Award in 1995 and was spun off into an anime.

Ragawa's work showcases some very cute and expressive line work along with an incredible ability to depict complex emotions and relationships. Some of her other works include *N.Y. N.Y.* and the tennis manga *Shanimuni-Go*.

Ragawa has two brothers and two sisters.

BABY & ME, Vol. 6

The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

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T
FOR TEEN
PARENTAL ADVISORY
BABY & ME is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains adult situations.
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